

# PUBLIC SAFETY BULLETIN: Home Security Tips

According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds, making it the most common threat to our homes.



FULTON  
INDUSTRIAL



BOULEVARD  
IMPROVEMENT  
DISTRICT

## Securing Your Home Against Burglary

A burglary is the crime of breaking and entering a dwelling for the purpose of committing a felony – stealing your valuables. Eighty-five percent of all home burglaries occur between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. when no one is usually home. Burglars spend an average of eight to 12 minutes in the home of a victim and target homes that appear to be empty of occupants.

Not surprisingly, a burglar's favorite items to steal include cash, jewelry, electronics (laptops, small devices), silver, guns and anything the burglar can sell easily. The first stop most thieves make is in the master bedroom, where many highly valued items can easily be found. Most burglars are not caught and only 13% of all reported burglaries are solved.

**The average loss for a homeowner: \$2,100**

**The fact that many burglaries can be prevented: PRICELESS!**

### Alarms

- Most car and house alarms are ignored because they go off regularly and people assume they are false alarms so it is important to make sure your home alarm is connected to an alarm monitoring station to ensure someone will respond.
- Consider purchasing a system that will actually announce in a loud and urgent voice the exact location of the break-in in addition to sounding a siren (e.g., "Intrusion Detected: Rear Door"), that way the system will attract the attention of neighbors and encourage the thief to leave since his exact location has been announced.



- Reflective numbers outside on the front of your home will make it easy for police, fire and EMS to find your house in the event of an alarm activation or 911 call.
- Be sure to put out two alarm signs – one in front of the house and one in the rear of the house, where most criminals will try to get in.

## Doors & Locks

Doors and windows are the primary ways criminals enter your house. To prevent or make it extremely difficult for a criminal to force his way into your home, consider these suggestions:

- Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points.
- Use a quality, heavy-duty deadbolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt.
- Use a quality, heavy-duty knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism.
- Use a heavy-duty, four-screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws that penetrate into the wooded door frame.

- If you have a solid front door, install a peephole so you can see who is at the door without having to open it.
- Lock your doors and windows when you are away – even if you are just running a quick errand; it only takes seconds for a burglar to strike.
- To avoid being locked out, place a spare key in a combination lockbox on your property and leave another with a trusted neighbor.
- Be careful to whom you give your alarm code and keys; some alarms now allow you to give everyone their own code so as to monitor their use.

For added protection, install motion-sensor lighting around dark corners and side gates and trim overgrown landscaping near windows and doors. Visible security cameras such as doorbell cameras are also recommended for deterring a burglar. By following all of these tips, you will go a long way to protecting your home and convincing a burglar to find an easier opportunity.

**Frank J. Mazzilli | Public Safety Manager**

404.328.5246

frank@boulevardcid.org

www.boulevardcid.org

FULTON  
INDUSTRIAL



BOULEVARD  
IMPROVEMENT  
DISTRICT