

KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE FROM BURGLARS



Our homes are our sanctuaries—places where we should feel safe, protected, and at peace. When a break-in occurs, the impact goes far beyond the loss of possessions. There are emotional consequences, a sense of violation, and often significant costs associated with repairing the damage left behind.

As we look forward to the long, bright days of summer—filled with day trips, weekends away, and family vacations—our homes can become more vulnerable to opportunistic burglars. With that in mind, it's worth taking a few thoughtful steps to safeguard your space and preserve your peace of mind.

Below are several practical ideas to help keep your home secure and reduce the risk of intrusion. ***And as always, before making any major investment, it's wise to consult with qualified security professionals who can assess your specific needs and recommend the best solutions.***

- **DON'T Leave ladders in plain view**

Burglars love ladders because they provide instant access to second-floor windows and balconies.

Fix: Store ladders in a locked garage or use a \$20–\$40 chain/lock to secure them.

- **DON'T Advertise recent purchases in the trash**

TV, laptop, and appliance boxes left at the curb tell burglars exactly what's inside.

Fix: Break down boxes, turn them inside out, or take them directly to a recycling depot.

- **DON'T Allow newspapers to pile signalling you're away**

A stack of newspapers or flyers is a classic “nobody's home” signal.

Fix: Pause deliveries or have a neighbour collect your mail frequently.

- **DO TRIM bushes and add light to dark areas**

Burglars hide behind shrubs near windows and doors.

Fix: Trim bushes below window height and install motion-activated lighting (\$20–\$60).

- **DO Place an alarm system in plain view**

If burglars can see your keypad, they can watch you enter your code.

Fix: Position keypads out of sight from windows and use a secondary PIN for guests.

- **DON'T Forget burglars use Facebook and Social Media too**

Posting vacation photos in real time tells criminals your home is empty.

Fix: Post after you return and disable location tagging.

- **DON'T Leave your homes unlit, they attract burglars**

Dark homes look unoccupied and provide cover.

Fix: Use smart plugs or dusk-to-dawn bulbs to keep key areas lit.

- **DO Use the right home security cameras**

Cheap cameras often have poor night vision or unreliable motion detection.

Fix: Choose cameras with **1080p+**, **IR night vision**, and **cloud/local storage**.

- **DON'T Use your Alarms incorrectly**

Many break-ins happen when the alarm is simply not armed.

Fix: Use **auto-arming**, **geofencing**, or **scheduled arming** features.

- **DON'T Use weak or predictable passwords**

Burglars and hackers can guess simple alarm codes or Wi-Fi passwords.

Fix: Use a password manager and enable **two-factor authentication** on all devices.

Neighbourhood Watch programs could also be a very good idea. They're **free, effective**, and **community-building**, and they make your home — and your entire street — a far less appealing target for burglars. They often work because burglars overwhelmingly avoid areas where people are alert, connected, and likely to notice suspicious behaviour. Studies show that “Neighbourhood Watch” signs alone reduce break-ins because burglars assume residents are vigilant.

10 MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE WITH HOME SECURITY

1 Leaving ladders in plain view



2 Advertising recent purchases in their trash



3 Newspaper piles are a dead giveaway



4 Untrimmed bushes and dark areas are perfect hiding spots



5 Leaving an alarm system in plain view



6 Forgetting that burglars use Facebook, too



7 Unlit houses attract bad people



8 Using the wrong home security cameras



9 Home security alarms not correctly used



10 Using home security passwords that are very simple or easy to guess



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