



Residential Burglary Prevention Tips

Please take a moment to look over the following tips to enhance the security of your home.

10 Best Tips for Residential Security

1. Keep doors and windows locked when away from the home. Approximately half of all residential burglaries are made via unforced entries.
2. To lock a door or window means it is held tightly in place, and does not budge when pushed, pulled, or lifted. Even if a window is open for ventilation, (no more than three inches), it should be locked tight in that position to eliminate movement.
3. In addition to being equipped with good locks, a door and door jamb should be of sound construction.
4. Garage Security: Burglars see the average garage as a not-so-secure cache of valuables. Generally the larger garages that store more cars, experience more entries and exits, and hence more chances for a burglar's opportunistic entry.
 - a. Disconnect any exterior electric key switches or electronic number pads that open your garage door. Use either a remote control opener or a key.
 - b. Bikes in a locked garage need to be locked securely to a sturdy bike rack (such as with a motorcycle chain and lock), at least as securely as when the bike is parked outside in public.
 - c. Most storage lockers are designed for storing non-valuables. A secure storage compartment has sturdy walls, doors and locks like the entryway of a building.
 - d. A locked vehicle in a locked garage does not keep laptops, purses, PDAs, backpacks secure. Remove all valuables.
5. Keep the property in good repair and appearance as much as possible. Good maintenance enhances the look of good security. Maintain visibility.
6. Mark your valuables for identification and recovery. Keep an up-to-date inventory of your valuables, include serial numbers, photographs, and physical description of each item. Learn about the Operation Identification Program by calling SAFE. Try not to keep valuables in a visible location in your home.
7. Install a 180 degree wide angle door viewer on your front door and look before opening it.
8. Be alert when answering unsolicited visitors and callers. Do not provide entry or information to people until you have determined who they are and that you have reason to provide such access.
9. Consider having an alarm system installed as a back up to the physical and personal security measures you have taken. Obtain estimates from at least three companies before purchasing a system.
10. Join or establish a SAFE Neighborhood Watch on your block to network and plan a crime prevention strategy for your block. Contact SAFE at (415) 553-1984 for more information.

**If you see any suspicious activity, immediately report it to the police
at (415) 553-0123. Call 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

Be prepared to provide a description of suspects involved.

*This document has been produced by SAFE and SFPD.
For more information visit www.sfsafe.org*

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How to organize a SAFE Neighborhood Watch

Benefits of Organizing a Neighborhood Watch

- Increase awareness of crime and public safety issues that impact you, your family, and your neighbors.
- Meet your neighbors and establish a communications network.
- Work collectively to address crime and public safety concerns.
- Learn how to access resources that will support your crime prevention efforts.
- Reduce the risk of crime and victimization on your block.

Step One

Recruit two or three neighbors to form a **Planning Committee**.

Step Two

Contact SAFE (415.553.1984) to assist with the organizing process and problem-solving.

Step Three

Planning Committee meets with a SAFE representative to:

- Discuss SAFE's role.
- Identify public safety issues and concerns.
- Plan meeting agenda.
- Schedule first Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Create meeting notification system.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Process

1st Neighborhood Watch Meeting

- Meet your neighbors.
- Discuss and identify neighborhood crime and public safety concerns and prioritize them.
- Start the process of addressing issues and problem-solving.
- Learn how to create a customized telephone and email communication network with your neighbors.
- Learn to observe and report suspicious activity and crime.
- Set the next meeting date, agenda items and meeting notification system.

2nd Neighborhood Watch Meeting

- Continue discussion on crime and public safety issues and any updates for problem-solving.
- Set goals and or desired outcomes.
- Learn best practices and strategies for personal safety and home security.
- Set the next meeting date, agenda items and meeting notification system.

3rd Neighborhood Watch Meeting

- Meet a police representative from the district station or other resources.
- Follow up discussion about issues and or crime prevention tools, strategies and resources for problem-solving.
- Announce any problem-outcomes.
- Set the next meeting date, agenda items and meeting notification system.

4th Neighborhood Watch Meetings

- Continue discussion on status of old and new issues.
- Announce any outcomes.
- Discuss and consider emergency preparedness for the block and personal training.
- Define leadership roles and set future meeting (s).