



Burglary Prevention Survey – Burglary accounts for about one fourth of all crime in the United States. One burglary attempt takes place every ten seconds, and on average, hundreds of dollars’ worth of goods are taken from a burglarized home. While these statistics are alarming, one tactic that can be used to greatly reduce your chance of becoming a victim of burglary is to take precautions. Burglars are criminals of opportunity; they want to get in easily, steal and escape undetected (quick, quiet, unseen). If you make this more difficult, hopefully your property will be uninviting to a burglar.

This survey is designed to help you identify vulnerable areas. The goal is to *harden the target*, the target being your residence. Review all questions. For every “No” checked, consider what you can do to turn it into a “Yes.” Be proactive in protecting your property. Keep your eyes and ears open at all times and help law enforcement by reporting suspicious activity. Crime prevention can be improved one resident at a time; please help us make your neighborhood safer!

**Neighborhood** – *Get neighbors involved and looking out for one another; unite around the common cause of a safer neighborhood!*

**Yes      No**

- Have you met all neighbors who touch your property? Are you watching out for one another?
- Do you have a Neighborhood Watch Group on your street? [Click here for more info about EPD's Neighborhood Watch Program](#)
- Are all of your street lights functioning? [Click here for street light outage contacts](#)



**Home Exterior** – *Send a message that you are being proactive about making your property unattractive to burglars!*

- Is your house number easily visible from the street and lit up at night?
- Are trees and shrubs trimmed so walk-ways, gates, doors, and windows can be observed by neighbors and police patrols and burglars cannot hide?
- Are shrubs cut below window level?
- Are tree limbs cut above window level and so that they cannot be used to gain access to your home?
- Are thorny plants used as ground cover along fences or property lines and under windows?
- Has decorative stone or gravel been used as ground cover under windows as a noise deterrent?
- Has fencing, paving or landscaping been used to distinguish between public and private property?
- If there is a fence with a gate, is it locked?
- Do family members routinely secure items such as bikes, toys, mowers, tools, and ladders when not in use?
- Are all sheds or outdoor structures locked?
- Are accessible openings to the home, such as window wells, vents & skylights covered and/or locked?
- Do you keep a spare key hidden somewhere off the property and not in an obvious place?
- Can your mailbox be locked and is it marked with your house number?
- Have you displayed “No Solicitors”, “Beware of Dog”, or alarm company signage?

**Lighting** – Burglars do NOT like to be seen; shine your lights!

Yes No

- Are all walkways, porches, decks, and doors well lit with photoelectric lights (that turn on automatically when it gets dark)?
- Do you have motion sensor lighting aimed at outdoor structures, ground-level windows, and certain areas of your yard?
- Is outdoor security lighting located high enough to be out of reach of burglars to tamper with?

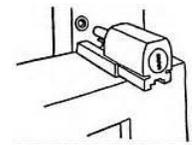
**Doors** – Doors are the more common point of entry because they arouse less suspicion than entering through windows; make your doors as criminal-resistant as possible!

- Are exterior doors or entrance doors either solid core or metal/steel reinforced and do they fit tightly in their doorjamb? Are all frames and hardware sturdy?
- Are deadbolt locks with at least a 1" throw installed on all exterior/entrance doors?
- Are strike plates securely fastened to doorjamb with at least 3" screws?
- Was the home re-keyed since the last occupant?
- Do entry doors have a wide angle peep hole?
- Are door locks that can be opened from the inside at least 40 inches from glass or secured with a double cylinder deadbolt\* (locked with key, not thumb turn)?  
*(\*Key should be easily accessible in case of fire)*
- If an exterior door has outside hinges, are they non-removable?
- Do you lock your doors whenever you leave the house, even if you are just in the backyard?
- Are sliding doors reinforced with a Charlie Bar or wooden/metal rod so they cannot be forced sideways and/or is a screw installed in the track to prevent lifting?

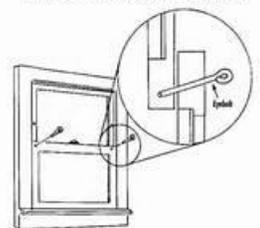


**Windows** – Unlocked or open windows provide easy entry for burglars; be sure you are not making it easy for the bad guys!

- Do you have key-operated auxiliary locks on your windows and **are keys easily accessible in case of fire?**
- Have double-hung windows been pinned (drill downward sloping hole where inside and outside sashes meet; insert pin)?
- Have horizontal sliding windows been secured with a rod and/or has a screw been installed in the track?
- Are window air conditioning units secured from inside and the window secured in place?



Securing Double-Hung Windows with Pins



**Garage** – Close the garage unless you need it open; for attached garages, they can allow direct access to your home – lock that inner door!

**Yes    No**

- Is the overhead garage door kept closed when not in use?
- Are other doors accessing the garage locked?
- Are garage windows pinned?
- Is the interior door that accesses the house kept locked at all times?
- Are garage door openers removed from vehicles parked outside the garage?
- Are keys removed from vehicles parked inside the garage?

**Other** – A few more things to consider!

- Do you have an alarm system; is it registered with EPD? [Click here to register a Security Alarm System](#)
- Are you using surveillance technology? [Click here to learn more about EPD's free Security Through Surveillance training](#)
- Are you aware not to leave notes on your door indicating you are away from home or not to provide your schedule away from home on your answering machine?
- Are important documents, excess cash and smaller valuables kept in an off-site safe deposit box or in a locked safe that cannot be carried from the home?
- Do you always check who is at the door before opening it and ask for photo identification from service professionals?
- Do you have a written and photographic inventory of your valuables easily accessible? [Click here for Leads Online Citizen Property Inventory System](#)
- Do you participate in Operation Identification or engrave your valuables with your Driver's License Number?
- Do you take special measures for your home to look "lived in" when on vacation, such as timers on lights and radios/tv's, stopping mail, papers and deliveries, arranging for garbage to be taken out/cans brought in, mowing or shoveling?
- Do you arrange for a trusted person to keep an eye on your property when you are on vacation?
- Do you call to ask for a vacation watch from EPD?
- Do you know never to enter your house if you suspect it has been burglarized or to always let a burglar flee if you interrupt him in your home?



*For questions about this survey, please contact Christy Schmidt, EPD Crime Prevention Specialist, at 847-289-2588.*