

HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

This quick checklist provides useful tips which can be utilized to evaluate the security risks of your home.

EXTERIOR

- 1) Shrubs and bushes trimmed 3 foot and lower.
- 2) Tree limbs trimmed 6 foot and higher.
- 3) Illuminate residence structure from roofline to ground level. (illuminating from ground level up will cast shadows where thieves can hide).
- 4) Ensure address is visible from street during night hours.
- 5) Secure bicycles, lawn mowers, ladders and other personal items inside.

WINDOWS

- 1) Ensure all locking devices on windows work properly.
- 2) Install auxiliary locking devices on windows.

DOORS

- 1) Install 180 degree peephole on front door.
- 2) Ensure all exterior doors are solid core.
- 3) Install 3 inch screws to secure strike plate to door jam.
- 4) Make certain deadbolt seats completely into door jam strike plate hole, when in locked position.
- 5) Ensure exterior door hinges are security hinges, which cannot be disassembled from outside.

GARAGE

- 1) Install a quality lock to secure the overhead door.
- 2) Make certain garage door closes tightly.
- 3) Remove emergency release cord from overhead garage doors equipped with garage door opener and store for later use.
- 4) Remove keys from cars parked inside garage.
- 5) Close and secure garage doors when you are not in garage.
- 6) Never leave your open garage unattended and unsecured.



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**COURAGE,
KNOWLEDGE,
INTEGRITY**

HOME SECURITY



DON'T BE A TARGET!!

**Are you doing everything
you can to protect your
family, home and personal
property?**

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A SAFER COMMUNITY**

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CONCEPTS (CPTED)

EXTERIOR

Incorporate simple, inexpensive landscaping and design concepts to improve security to your home.

- Don't allow bushes, shrubs and trees to create blind spots or hiding places.
- Walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the proper entrance and away from private areas.
- Walkways and all doorway entrances should be well lit and visible from the road.
- Make certain your address numbers are well lit and visible from the road during evening hours.

DOORS

Doorways are the main access and egress locations of any home. The quality of your doors will assist with the security of your home.

- All exterior doors should be solid core.
- Ensure all exterior door hinges are security hinges, which can not be disassembled from outside.
- Install a secondary deadbolt locking system on all doors leading to the exterior of your home.
- Install auxiliary locks and pinning devices to sliding glass doors.
- Replace all strike plate screws with a minimum of 3" screws for reinforced security.
- Install 180 degree peepholes on all exterior doors.

WINDOWS

Windows make up a large portion of your home and pose a high security threat.

- Have high impact glass or a protective covering installed to prevent window smashing.
- Utilize auxiliary locking systems which prevent windows from being pried open.
- Install pins to window frames to further assist in preventing windows from being pried open.

GARAGE

The garage is an often overlooked area which thieves find to be a popular target.

- Install a deadbolt to the interior door leading from the garage to the inside of your home.
- Remove the emergency release cord from the overhead door and store for later use.
- Secure and lock garage doors when you are not in or within visible sight of garage.
- Affix a padlock or turn off garage door opener to prevent entry through overhead garage door when away for an extended periods of time.

ALARM SYSTEMS

Alarm systems are a great investment to assist in protecting your family and home.

Contact reputable alarm companies to determine what system would fit your home security needs.

Request a central monitoring system be included with your choice of alarm service.

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

- Never leave exterior doors unlocked while working in the yard.
- Never open your door unless you know who is on the other side.
- Install timers to turn on lights, radios and televisions, making your house look as if someone is home.
- Never leave a phone recorded message advising "I am not home at this time". Leave one which states "We are not available to come to the phone at this time".
- Keep ladders and tools in a secured area.
- Remove all items (laptops, GPS, guns, garage door openers and keys) from your vehicle, roll up all windows and lock all doors, while parked in your driveway.
- Never leave your garage unattended or unsecured.
- Record serial numbers of all personal property.
- Place valuable property in a secured safe.
- Report all suspicious activity to the police by dialing **911**, as soon as it is observed.

To receive a complete and thorough assessment of your home security, contact The Port St. Lucie Police Department Crime Prevention Unit and schedule a **FREE** security survey.