



Tips for

# Making Your Home More Secure

The following security precautions are furnished to assist you in making your home more secure against being burglarized.

## **EXTERIOR/PERIMETER**

1. Provide lighting for all outside entrances to the house. Besides entrances to the home it is recommended you provide perimeter lighting on all sides of the house. Consider motion sensor lighting or timers for your exterior lights.
2. Keep trees and shrubs cleared/pruned around doors and windows. This helps eliminate concealment for burglars/prowlers.
3. Make sure your address/house number is clearly visible from the street and lighted at night.

## **Exterior Doors**

- A. Make sure all exterior doors are metal or solid wood, 1 3/8" thick.
- B. The hinges should be on the inside of the door and the doorframe should be strong enough to withstand excessive force.
- C. Use a high security "strike plate" for the lock and secure to the doorframe with 3 1/2" wood screws.
- D. Use good quality single cylinder deadbolt locks with at least a 1" throw.
- E. Install a 190-degree door viewer (peephole) on the main entrance. Install the door viewer at a height accessible to the shortest person in the household or install more than one, at varying heights.

## **Garage Doors**

Secure garage doors with a key-operated locking device or install an automatic garage door opener.

## **Sliding Glass Doors**

Secure sliding glass doors with secondary locking devices to prevent them from being lifted or pried from their frame.

1. "Charlie Bar" commercially manufactured security device that is installed on the door/door frame.
2. "Pinning" Inserting a pin in a hole drilled in the doorframe. Commercial devices are available or a nail can be placed in the hole.
3. Place a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to secure the door against being pried open. You may also need to "pin" the door to keep it from being lifted from the track.

## **Double/French Doors**

Secure the inactive or one of the active doors with concealed flush mounted header and threshold bolts that penetrate metal strike plates. Secure the two active doors with a high security single cylinder dead bolt lock with a minimum 1" throw.

## **INTERIOR**

1. Install a solid wood door, 1 3/8" thick, with a high security single cylinder dead bolt lock, minimum 1" throw, from the garage into the house.
2. Secure window air conditioners to the house or with grating to prevent them from being removed or pushed into the house.
3. Windows: Secure all windows (that open) with secondary or auxiliary locking mechanisms.
  - A. Metal windows can be secured with commercial locking devices that are attached to the window's track. It is recommended you use one on both tracks of the window. It is recommended you do not use key operated devices as it may pose a safety issue in the event of a fire.
  - B. Wooden windows can be secured by "pinning" or by placing a wooden dowel in both sides of the window's tracks.
  - C. Louvered or jalousie windows pose a special security problem. These type windows can be secured by installing reinforced metal screening.

## **Operation I. D.**

Mark/engrave your valuables with your TX. I.D. or D.L. number and make an inventory of them to include: brand, model, size, and serial number. Photograph or video tape those valuable or collectible items that do not have serial numbers.

Alarms: Alarms should be used in combination with other security measures. If your home has an alarm it should have an interior and exterior siren and be monitored by a U.L. approved central monitoring station.

Did you know you can receive a discount on your home owners insurance premium (Chapter 5, Texas Insurance Code, amended Article 5.33A) if you meet specified home security criteria and your home passes an inspection by a state certified crime prevention specialist? For further home security tips or for a free home security survey contact the Lancaster Police Department's Community Officer Paul Beck at 972-218-2755.

**REMEMBER AN UNUSED LOCK OFFERS NO PROTECTION!**