

Use Common Sense

Common sense will help keep the burglar away. Be aware of the common methods which burglars use to gain entry, and make sure your entire family understands what to do in certain situations.

- Warn family members to be cautious about giving out information over the telephone. Burglars sometimes call ahead to learn if anyone is home, who is home, or when residents are expected to return.
- Do not indiscriminately open your home to strangers. A wide-angle door viewer or peephole installed in your front door will allow you to see who is outside without opening the door. Ask for positive identification from repairmen or solicitors who claim to have business inside your home. If you are suspicious about the caller, telephone his office for verification.
- When you admit a repairman or salesman do not leave him alone for even a few minutes.
- Protect your garage door opener. It's an electronic key to your home and should be treated with the same security as your metal house key.
- Do not economize on outside padlocks. An inferior padlock may not give you the protection that you need.
- Don't leave an extra key "hidden" outside your home.
- Don't leave your house keys with your car keys when you leave your car with a repair shop or valet.
- Don't attach your name or license number to your house keys. Lost or stolen house keys which contain such information can be easily traced to your front door.
- Never keep large sums of cash or easily stolen valuables such as jewelry unprotected in your home. Keep valuables you don't often use in a safe deposit box.

Participate In Operation Identification

Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program. The Operation Identification program has two parts. First, engrave your valuables with your driver's license number. An engraver may be borrowed from the Crime Prevention Unit. Marked property can be easily traced and identified as yours. Second, display an Operation I.D. window and door sticker which tells would-be burglars that your property has been marked. Marked property and the presence of the Operation I.D. sticker are proven burglary deterrents.

Marked property is difficult for a burglar to dispose of or re-sell. If a burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.



Organize A Neighborhood Watch Group

Many communities have formed Neighborhood Watch groups to protect themselves from burglars. Through a Neighborhood Watch organization, neighbors agree to keep an eye on each other's property and to report suspicious activities to the police.

Contact the Crime Prevention Unit for assistance in organizing and maintaining a Neighborhood Watch group on your block.

**Contact the Crime Prevention Unit
about a free home security assessment.
At your request a crime prevention officer
will assess your home and make
security recommendations.**

This crime prevention information
brought to you by the
National Crime Prevention Council
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and



PLANO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Crime Prevention Unit
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972-941-2431



Safe &



Sound

DON'T GIVE BURGLARS A HELPING HAND

By following the suggestions in this brochure you can decrease your chances of becoming a burglary victim.

Most home burglars are amateurs looking for easy targets. They're looking for homes which present the least risk of detection; the greatest opportunity for easy gain; and the maximum potential for escape. They're looking for homes which appear unoccupied and unprotected; homes without adequate locks and lighting; open or unlocked doors and windows; and home sites which provide easy concealment from neighbors and passing motorists.

Unfortunately, the burglar doesn't need to look around very long to discover "Welcome Burglar" signs unwittingly left around many homes. It is even more unfortunate when you realize that all it takes to make your home less inviting to a burglar is a little common sense and several easy, effective, and inexpensive crime prevention measures.

When you move into a new home, or if you lose your house keys, contact a locksmith to change the tumblers inside the lock. The change can be done quickly and inexpensively, and it makes the old or lost keys useless.

DON'T FORGET TO LOCK UP! Even the best locks provide no protection if left unlocked. Securely lock your home even if you plan to be away for only minutes.

What Is A Good Lock?

Crime Prevention experts recommend DEADBOLT LOCKS to provide the security needed for exterior doors. The bolt should extend at least ONE INCH into the door frame to provide adequate security.



Deadbolt Lock



Spring-Latch Lock

Many homes are equipped with spring latch-door locks. Most spring-latch locks can be easily jimmied by even the most inexperienced burglar. Replace or supplement any spring-latch locks with a good deadbolt lock.

A heavy gauge metal strike plate should be installed with 3 inch long (minimum) wood screws. The screws should reach past the frame and sink into the structural 2x4's.

Survey Your Home

Look at your home through a burglar's eyes. Does it look like an easy target? Are there obvious security weaknesses?

- Shrubbery should not visually obscure doors and windows. Trim the growth so that a burglar cannot work undetected. Prickly-type plants discourage intruders from accessing fence or window areas.
- At night leave a few lights burning outside your home. Lights over doorways and garages, and strategically placed floodlights will make your home less inviting to a burglar.
- Make your home look occupied at all times.
- Windows and doors should be securely locked. Inadequate locks should be replaced or supplemented.
- Make sure police and other emergency crews can easily find your home. Plano city ordinance requires the permanent placement of numbers no less than 3 inches in height on both the front and rear of a residence designating the official post office address.

Give Your Home An Occupied Look

Most burglars are looking for unoccupied homes. If your home appears occupied, the burglar will usually look for other more inviting sites.

- When away from home, leave a radio playing.
- Always leave a few inner lights burning at night. Automatic timers can be used to vary the on/off pattern of interior lights when you're away.

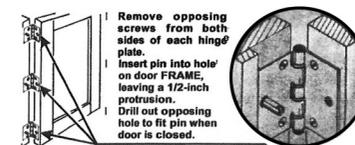
Alarms offer additional security but should never be substituted for good locks and physical hardware. Alarms do not physically keep anybody out, but merely signal when somebody has or is attempting to break in. Most alarms are required to have a permit. Phone the Plano Police Alarm Unit 972-941-2426 for additional information.



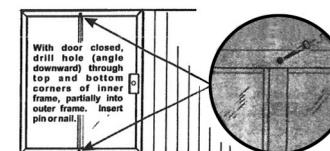
TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

Secure Doors and Windows

Doors which swing open to the outside have exposed hinges in easy reach of the burglar. These doors can be secured by the "hinge pinning" technique illustrated.



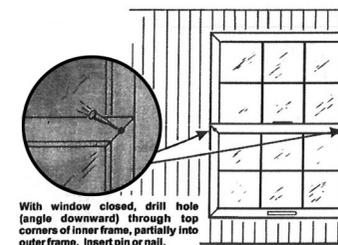
Wooden exterior doors have either Solid Core or Hollow Core construction. SOLID CORE DOORS provide the greatest security. They are best able to withstand attacks by burglars, and are best suited for the installation of good locks.



Sliding Glass Doors are particularly vulnerable to attacks by burglars. The "pinning" technique illustrated will prevent the lock from being forced or the door from being lifted from the track.

Open Garage Doors Attract Burglars. Make a habit of keeping garage doors closed and locked. An open garage door with no car in sight is a clear invitation to a burglar, especially if the garage is used to store such items as bicycles, power mowers, garden tools, and other easily stolen property.

Windows are another common entry point for burglars. Double-hung windows can be easily and inexpensively secured by using the "pinning" technique illustrated.



We discourage the use of key operated window locks, due to fire hazard.

Remember, an open or unlocked window, door, or fence gate invites burglars.