

LIGHTING

Exterior lighting is extremely important and one of the most cost-effective deterrents to burglary. Each exterior doorway is recommended to be lighted to prevent a burglar from concealing his activity. Yard lights and exterior lights can be equipped with sensors which will turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn. Motion sensor lighting can be installed to detect movement around the residence. To give the appearance that you are at home, use an electric timer to turn lamps on in the evening and off at your normal retirement hour. Timers can be used to turn on radios as well as lamps. Use timers on each floor of the residence.

ALARMS

Use a reputable company when choosing an alarm company. Request a security assessment first to point out vulnerable areas. Alarm all doors, windows and secure areas within your home. Install "Glass Break" sensors on large windows. A permit is required for the Sheriff's Office to respond. Confirm your alarms status with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office by calling 561-688-3695.



Dear Friends:

Since 1909, the deputies of Palm Beach County have always provided a safe environment for the people who live, work and visit Palm Beach County. The Sheriff's Office is committed to improving awareness, and sharing the fundamentals of crime prevention in order to ensure our community is safe and secure.

The goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. In order to accomplish this effectively, it is important to remove opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you and your property. You are attempting to prevent either victimization or criminalization by presenting an unattractive target to the criminal. This can be as complex as installing a high tech alarm system and lighting to something as simple as locking your doors.

Crime prevention is using instinct, common sense, and taking action to eliminate or greatly reduce the criminal's opportunity. We all have a personal part to play regarding crime prevention. A large share of the responsibility of reducing criminal opportunity lies with you.

Thank you for working with us to make Palm Beach County a safer place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Ric Bradshaw, Sheriff
Palm Beach County



The mission of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is to help reduce crime in business and residential communities by working together in partnership and through various proactive strategies, techniques, and programs.

EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

Non-Emergency Numbers:

South County (561) 995-2800
North County (561) 688-3000
West County (561) 996-1670

For more information contact the
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
1937 N Military Trail, Suite-Q
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409
(561) 688-3970

Email: CrimePrevention@pbsso.org



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION



Residential Burglary is a chronic national problem that is growing more and more every day. In Florida alone, hundreds of thousands of burglaries occur every year, and millions of dollars worth of property is lost. Only a small percentage of stolen goods are ever recovered and returned to the rightful owner. Along with property being stolen there is the damage done by the burglar that also costs the victim.

Fortunately, you can prevent burglary because, in most cases, it is a crime of opportunity committed by criminals who are able to gain easy access to your home. You can eliminate the opportunity by making your home difficult to enter and less inviting to the potential criminal.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff

LANDSCAPING

The exterior of your home should not offer concealment to a burglar. A house with doors and windows in full view is a psychological deterrent because they are forced to work in the open where they take a chance of being seen and caught.

Ways to discourage a burglar:

- Keep shrubs trimmed away from doors and windows.
- Maintain adequate exterior lighting, especially on vulnerable access points of your home.
- Don't leave property such as lawnmowers, bicycles, etc. in the yard or in open or unlocked garages or sheds.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked at all times.
- Properly display and illuminate house numbers. This will aid law enforcement and other emergency vehicles in finding your home
- Never leave notes that can inform a burglar that you are not at home.

EXTERIOR DOORS

It is important that all exterior doors be either metal clad or solid wood. Equip doors with non-removable or hidden pin hinges. Every door should be well lit and equipped with a wide-angle door viewer, "Peephole", so that you can see who is on the other side of the door.

SLIDING GLASS DOORS

Sliding glass doors are particularly easy targets for the burglar and are a frequent point of entry. The locks they come equipped with can usually be pried open. The door can also be removed from the track unless it is properly secured.

- Install a 1 1/4 inch pan head (large head) sheet metal screw in the upper track at both ends and in the middle so that the frame just clears the head of the screw.
- There are different types of locks that can be installed in the bottom and top track of the doors. A metal bar that attaches to the side frame and fits across the middle or bottom of the sliding door, running parallel to the floor, can be installed to prevent the door from being opened.
- It is recommended that you check local hardware stores for types of locks to secure the sliding glass doors.

LOCKS

Sound locking devices **cannot** make a residence completely impregnable, but they can deter burglars. They can force them into a situation in which they must break glass in order to enter - something they would like to avoid.

Use quality keyed knobs as well as deadbolts - deadbolts can withstand the twisting, turning, prying, and pounding that regular keyed knobs can't.



The bolt on a deadbolt lock is recommended to extend one inch when in the locked position. To provide additional security, a strike plate is recommended to cover the areas of the bolt on the lock.

WINDOWS

The most common type window installed in homes today is the double hung window. Most of the window latches cannot be jimmied open due to added security features on the window. Prior to 2000 many double hung windows could be easily jimmied or pried open.

Regardless of which window you have, the glass can still be broken and the latch opened by reaching through the broken pane.

- A thumb locking device can be installed to prevent the window from being raised from the outside. Avoid keyed locking systems because of the threat of fire. You can also install pins in the window frame to allow the window to be opened far enough for ventilation while still preventing someone from gaining entry. Check with the local fire department regarding restrictions on window locks.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

What is Operation Identification?

Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program for use in homes. The Operation Identification Program involves the marking of property with an identification number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. In communities where it has been properly implemented, Operation Identification has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries.

Operation Identification has two basic parts:

First...

- Mark your valuables with your **drivers license number** so that your property can be easily traced and identified as yours. **Please note:** do not use your social security number, because the property cannot be traced back to you.

Engrave in two locations; one that can be easily seen and one that cannot.

Second...

- Display a sticker, which tells would-be burglars that your property has been marked. Obtain your operation identification stickers by calling the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 561-688-3970.

- An easy inexpensive way to secure your window is using the pin in the frame method. Drill a hole at a slight downward angle through the top frame of the lower window and into the frame of the upper window. Insert a nail or eyebolt.