

Securing Your Home's Doors & Windows

Safety and Security Tips from S.E.A.L. Security Solutions

(832) 900-7017

Securing the Entryways to Your Home

Home burglaries, which occur approximately once every 15 seconds, can usually be avoided.



Before you make a big purchase on a security system, use the tips below and inspect your home for simple, low-cost/no-cost ways of securing your home.

Get into a Safety Routine

Making home security a habit involves every household member. Agree to a routine including some simple rules:

- Use the door and window locks you already have. It costs nothing and takes little time and energy. Make it a habit to lock every door and window when leaving your home, after entering, and before bedtime.
- Do not open the door to uninvited or unwelcome visitors. Install a peephole in your door if you don't have one already.
- Close and lock the garage door.
- Secure your home even when you are doing work around the house and yard.
- Use your alarm system all the time, even when you take a quick trip to the store or visit next-door neighbors.

Actions You Can Take

- Remove the "hidden" house key. Burglars know your hiding places. Instead, give a spare house key to a trusted neighbor.
- Add foreboding signs. Post security-company signs or window stickers near all entryways whether you have a security system or not.
- Eliminate hiding spots. If your shrubbery is too tall, too bushy, or not well spaced, you are providing a nice hiding spot for burglars. Trim and prune plantings.
- Install timers. When you leave your home, you can create a "someone's at home" look using timers on lights and TVs.
- Light up the outdoors. Install outdoor lighting with motion sensors near each point of entry.

Door and Window Security

Garage Doors

Electric garage doors are not a common point of entry—as long as they are closed. Homeowners should treat all the doors like the front door and keep them closed.

Sliding-Glass Doors

Sliding-glass doors have a latch to close them but are often an easy point of entry for burglars. To make one more secure, place a wooden dowel cut to size or an adjustable safety bar in the interior floor track, or consider adding a floor bolt.

Assess Your Doors

Inspect your front, side, and back doors. Replace hollow (low-quality and easy-to-breach) doors with solid-core (made of wood or metal) or metal-clad doors.

Replace Weak Locks

Locks are the weakest point on a door. Make sure you have a grade 1 or grade 2 dead-bolt lock that penetrates the door frame.

The strike plate—the stationary piece that the bolt enters—must be heavy-duty, made of solid metal, with six three-inch-long screws that penetrate the

door jamb and the door frame. This low-cost part will make your lock much more secure.

Windows

Are your window locks operable? If not, get them fixed or replace them. Some window locks allow you to open the window a few inches while still keeping it secure.

Privacy

Using blinds and curtains prevents potential intruders from window shopping. Try to keep valuable items out of sight from outside your windows.

New Technologies

Consider a doorbell camera or other similar, cloud-based surveillance systems are becoming cheaper and easier to install every day.

These steps will only help to keep your home safe if you use them consistently. Begin a regimented schedule of locking doors and windows, as well as turning on an alarm system each night and when you leave the house so that no entryway is overlooked.

Oak Forest Hotline

(832) 900-7017

For a free courtesy watch of your property while you are away from home, please go to: vacationwatch.sealsecurity.com and fill out the form. (Please note that the form cannot be submitted from a mobile phone.)

