



Home Security Checklist:

- Doors/ Windows locked at night and every time you leave.
- Doors are solid metal or wood.
- Door includes peephole.
- Deadbolts installed on all exterior doors.
- Give spare key to trusted neighbor.
- Windows remain locked or secured with something sturdy between bottom pane and frame.
- Landscape is trimmed and all entries are illuminated with outdoor lighting.
- Outdoor lights are turned on at night.
- Indoor lights are equipped with automatic timers or are left on while away.
- If away for an extended time, stop mail and newspaper deliveries or arrange for someone to pick them up until you return.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

National Crime Prevention Council
www.ncpc.org

Ohio Crime Prevention Association
www.ocpa-oh.org

DOJ: Office of Justice Programs
www.ojp.gov/topics/crimeprevention

BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

154 N Main St
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-2961



CRIME PREVENTION: HOME SECURITY

Bluffton Police Department

Home Security

Keeping your home safe and secure starts with simple and effective techniques like sufficient lighting and locked doors and windows. While surveillance systems are beneficial, the tips listed below are cost-effective ways to enhance your home security.

Lighting:

LIGHTING ENHANCES SECURITY!! Both indoor and outdoor lighting are effective deterrents to crime. Security lighting creates a psychological deterrent to would be intruders.

Indoor Lighting: Using automatic timers can be used while your away from home to turn lights on and off at preset times, giving the impression that someone is home. In the absence of an automatic timer, simply leaving an interior light on while away for short periods of time can be effective.

Outdoor Lighting: Outdoor lighting eliminates places for potential intruders to hide. Effecting outdoor security lighting should be used around all possible points of entry, including all doors, first-floor windows, porches and garages. Outdoor lighting should be mounted out of reach, and some should be

aimed away from the home to illuminate the yard. Motion sensor lights are especially useful to detect someone approaching.

Landscape:

Your home's landscaping can also be an efficient deterrent to crime. Using the environment to enhance security is know as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and is a pro-active approach to prevent intrusions. CPTED suggests that walkways and landscaping direct all visitors to the main entrance of your home. Trees and shrubbery should be trimmed to maximize visibility. Shrubbery can also be planted under windows to deter entry.

Doors, Locks, and Windows:

Exterior Doors: Exterior doors should be solid metal or wood with non-removable or hidden pins. Using a locked storm door adds security. Exterior doors should be well-lighted and include a peephole to see who is outside without opening the door.

Locks: All exterior doors and windows should remain locked while your away from home, no matter the amount of time you are away. All exterior doors

should be equipped with a 1 inch deadbolt, and all other locks should be reliable and high-quality. **DO NOT KEEP SPARE KEYS HIDDEN OUTSIDE.**

Windows: Windows should remain locked during all times while your are away. Most newer windows include thumb-tabs that allow the window to open slightly but stop it from opening completely, a great feature for those that like open windows. In addition to typical window locks, using a fitted wood or metal bar between the bottom pane and the top of the window frame secures the window even more.

Personal Safety Tips:

- Do not allow strangers into your home; keep the door locked and call police even for people that say they need help.
- Do not advertise that you live alone.
- Do not be afraid to call police for any suspicious or unusual activity or circumstances.
- Change locks every time you move into a new home.
- Do not advertise when you are away from home.
- If you arrive home and the door is open or things seem out of place, DO NOT ENTER, leave and call the police.
- Turn on outdoor lights at night.