

**RESIDENTIAL
SECURITY GUIDELINES
for
CHESHIRE RESIDENTS**



**HOW TO
PROTECT YOUR HOME**

Presented by the Cheshire Police Department

HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

The Cheshire Police Department is dedicated to the prevention of residential burglaries and offers homeowners the following recommendations to help keep homes safe from intruders. Enhancing the security of your residence is much easier than you think. Keep in mind that the time you spend now may save you a great deal of stress and money in the long run.

The first step in making your home secure is to evaluate your current security measures to help identify every vulnerable area of your home, and to improve all areas that pose a risk. The following measures are simple, inexpensive things you can do to minimize the chances that a burglar will pick your home as a target.

- ✓ Select a good alarm system: photoelectric beams, passive infrared systems and motion detectors provide good protection.
- ✓ Make it tough for the thief to get inside your home. Lock up. Light up.
- ✓ Try to outthink the thief. Make your home look as if somebody's home at all times.
- ✓ Don't give a thief a chance to case your place.
- ✓ In case a thief does get in, make it likely they'll get caught...or get nothing.
- ✓ Know how to deal with a burglar if you meet him face to face.
- ✓ Be sure you're financially protected against burglary losses; be sure you have adequate insurance now before the loss occurs.
- ✓ If you become a burglary victim, in spite of your best efforts, get help from the nearest law enforcement agency immediately...then notify your insurance company.
- ✓ Take the following security measures.

SECURE DOORS AND WINDOWS

- ✓ Make sure all exterior doors are constructed of metal or solid core wood and secured with deadbolt locks.
- ✓ Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- ✓ Hinges and doorframes should be sturdy, with less than one-eighth of an inch between the door and the frame.
- ✓ All double-hung windows should be secured with removable pins.
- ✓ Secure sliding glass doors with removable pins or with a bar placed inside the track.
- ✓ Install deadbolt locks with at least 1" throw on all exterior doors, and make sure the bolt extends sufficiently into the striker plate.
- ✓ Re-key locks when you move in.
- ✓ Basement windows should have security bars, grills or auxiliary locks.
- ✓ Make sure window air conditioners are anchored and protected by steel grillwork to prevent removal from the outside.
- ✓ Exterior doors should have wide-angle (180 degree) door viewers.
- ✓ Locks that can be opened from inside should be at least 40 inches from glass.
- ✓ Securely fasten strike plates to the door jamb with at least 2 ½" screws.

LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPING

- ✓ Provide good, motion-detecting lighting near each entry point, including back doors and side windows.
- ✓ Keep yards and porches well-lit.
- ✓ Trim greenery below the bottom ledge of windows and away from doorways.
- ✓ Keep tree limbs and trellises away from second floor windows where burglars might use them to climb inside.
- ✓ House numbers should be well-lit and clearly visible from the street to help authorities find your home during a burglary or any emergency.
- ✓ The telephone line to the house should be located high enough so it is not easily accessible.
- ✓ Keep bicycles, mowers, and ladders inside.
- ✓ Eliminate areas that could be used as hiding places near the doors, windows, garage or parking area.
- ✓ Participate in Operation Identification by engraving items of value.

SECURITY PLAN WHILE ON VACATION

- ✓ Make arrangements for a trusted friend or neighbor to check on your residence, watch for intruders, cut the grass, shovel snow, etc., and leave them a key (do not hide a key).
- ✓ Have a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up mail and newspapers, or discontinue deliveries of mail and newspapers.
- ✓ Turn on answering machine to prevent burglars from hearing an unanswered phone: do not announce your absences on your answering message; turn ringer down low. Or, have your calls forwarded to a trusted friend or relative or to your own cell phone.
- ✓ Set timers to turn lights and a radio on and off.
- ✓ Leave a car in the driveway to provide the illusion of occupancy.
- ✓ Give vacation address and telephone number to a trusted neighbor, in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Leave shades and blinds in a normal position.
- ✓ Close and lock garage doors and windows; use an automatic garage door opener.
- ✓ Ask the local police to place your home on their vacation checklist.
- ✓ Test your smoke and burglar alarms.
- ✓ Do not leave notes on doors.

BEWARE OF STRANGERS

- ✓ Make sure household members know to withhold information such as their name and address from strangers.
- ✓ Identify visitors through a peephole or window, even if their voice sounds familiar.
- ✓ Ask strangers who need help to wait outside as household members make phone calls for them.
- ✓ Verify unscheduled visits from repairmen and utility workers with a call to their company.

HELPFUL HINTS IN THE EVENT OF A ROBBERY

It is very helpful to the Police for the homeowner to keep an inventory of all valuables with make and serial numbers. Items could be marked by engraving the license number with an engraver onto the stereo, VCR, television and others. A photo or videotape of inventory is also very helpful.

There are three types of burglars: the professional, the semi-professional, and the amateur. The majority of burglaries in Cheshire are carried out by an amateur burglar, but some do involve a professional or semi-professional. In most cases, the burglar is as nervous as their victim, and may have a weapon. Remember, safety first: give the burglar/robber what he wants!

If the robber leaves something behind, don't handle it yourself as it may provide fingerprints or other evidence. The incident must be reported to the Police as soon as it is safe to do so. Observe the robber's appearance and weapon. It is extremely important to report the height, weight, build, mannerisms and facial configuration of the robber, if possible.



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IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911