

Home Security Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- ☐ Interior - General
 - ☐ There is a smoke detector in hallways near bedrooms, near family room and kitchen, top of any stairway and garage.
 - ☐ Smoke detectors are tested once a month.
 - ☐ There are fire extinguishers in your kitchen, garage, and basement.
 - ☐ Members of your household know exactly what to do in case of emergency.
 - ☐ Valuable documents and possessions are stored in a fire-rated safe.
 - ☐ Guns are safely stored in a locked box, safe, or vault.
 - ☐ Guns are stored separately from the ammunition.
 - ☐ Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- ☐ Interior - While You're Away
 - ☐ Several lights in your home are set up on automatic timers.
 - ☐ There is a working home alarm system.
 - ☐ The alarm is armed before you leave.
 - ☐ Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped.
 - ☐ A friend or neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when away.
 - ☐ Your telephone answering machine doesn't announce: "We're not home right now?"
- ☐ Exterior
 - ☐ All doors are locked at night and every time you leave the house.
 - ☐ Exterior doors have a good-quality deadbolt lock.
 - ☐ All latch-strike plates on your exterior doors secured with at least 3" screws.
 - ☐ Glass panels in or near the doors are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
 - ☐ Exterior doors without glass have a wide-angle door viewer installed for identifying visitors.
 - ☐ Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
 - ☐ All doors are locked when you are home for the night or when you leave your residence.

- ☐ Exterior man-door and the door from the garage into your home have quality deadbolts.
- ☐ Overhead garage door is always closed, even when you are home.
- ☐ Front entrance and all other entrances are lit well enough to enable you to identify visitors at night.
- ☐ Motion sensors control exterior lighting.
- ☐ Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in a mailbox.
- ☐ House number is clearly displayed so emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.
- ☐ Landscaping and Exterior Entries
 - ☐ Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
 - ☐ There are no dark areas around our house and garage.
 - ☐ Tree limbs been trimmed to prevent access to upper floor windows or balconies.
 - ☐ "Prickly" or thorny shrubbery are planted near windows to discourage loitering or hiding.
 - ☐ All outdoor foliage is trimmed to prevent obstruction of exterior lighting.
 - ☐ All gates are locked with a quality, weatherproof padlock.
 - ☐ All sheds or outbuildings are secured with a quality, weatherproof padlock.
 - ☐ All valuables stored outside are secured to a fixed, immovable object.