

**“MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE:
Burglary Prevention Checklist”**
offers general tips and suggestions.

In an emergency, dial 911.

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**Public
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MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE

Burglary Prevention Checklist

Burglary is a major crime. It is a significant threat to all homeowners. Statistics show that most burglaries occur in single home residences, but multi-family dwellings such as condominiums and apartment buildings are also at risk.

Having a burglar alarm is a good deterrent but it is not enough. You can reduce the risk of being the victim of a burglary by using the “Burglary Prevention Checklist” inside.



My To Do List:

Burglary prevention is an ongoing pursuit. The Nassau County Police Department suggests that you keep this checklist handy for future inspections of your home.

Most burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Here's how to help make your home safer.

Burglars look for homes that have:

- No lights on and are dark at sunset.
- No car in the driveway.
- Doors and windows blocked by shrubs, trees...
- Mail sticking out of the mailbox.
- Curtains closed during the day.
- Papers on the front lawn or stoop.
- Outside alarm siren boxes.
- The appearance of being unoccupied.

“Target Harden” your home:

- Walk around your home and make a list of easy points of entry for an intruder.
- Take care of the problems you have listed.



Burglary Prevention Checklist

Secure the *outside* of your home.

- Lock doors and windows when leaving the house.
- Lock rear gates when not in use.
- Do not let people know you are not home by posting on the Internet or on voicemail.
- Prune overgrown shrubbery that hides windows and doors.
- Make alarm stickers visible on doors and windows; they should be easily seen from the street and sidewalk.
- Keep a car in the driveway, if possible.
- Give the appearance that you own a guard dog. Place a big dog bowl or dog chain on your property.
- Do not leave packages in the doorway all day; arrange for a delivery time when you or a neighbor can pick them up.
- Do not leave garbage cans at the curb all day; if you cannot stay home, use plastic bags instead of garbage cans.

Help prevent your home from becoming a target. Walk around your home and do a thorough security inspection.

Burglary Prevention Checklist *(cont'd)*

Secure *points of entry* into your home.

- If possible, do not use an outside mailbox. Insert a mail slot in the front door or garage.
- Install outside motion detection lights at the corners of your home. Make sure they are high enough so that an intruder is unable to unscrew the bulbs.
- Do not have a front door with side glass panels. It is easy for an intruder to break the glass, reach inside and unlock the door.
- Have outside doors of solid core or metal clad; steel doors and frames are the most secure while hollow doors with wood frames are easily kicked in.
- Use dead bolts with a one-inch throw since the mechanism is difficult to pry or jimmy open.
- Ensure that sliding glass doors and windows have metal pins or a metal bar installed so that they can not be pried open.
- Set inside lights on timers to turn on at dusk.
- Do not place valuables in bureau drawers in the master bedroom. This is the first place a burglar looks. Lock valuables in the attic or basement.
- Mark valuables with your driver's license number to make them easy to trace. Take pictures of them.
- Even if you have an alarm system, be alert when entering or leaving your home. If you notice someone or something suspicious, call 911 immediately.