

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

Most residential burglaries and thefts are crimes of opportunity and involve very little planning on the part of the thief. Knowing about burglars' three worst enemies – light, time, and noise, can help you safeguard your home from becoming an easy target. Reducing the risk of break-ins is simply a matter of making your home less attractive to criminals searching for quick and easy targets. The majority of residential burglaries are preventable if homeowners follow common sense steps in improving security.

In the efforts of reducing crime, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office has developed a Home Security Survey. Taking the time to complete this survey and reviewing your personal security situation can greatly reduce your risk of becoming a victim. After completing the survey, you will have a more complete understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of your home, as well as a checklist of areas for improvement.

Begin the survey by walking to the end of your block or the boundaries of your property. Remember that criminals and thieves are looking for homes that they can enter quickly, quietly, and without being seen. Try to "think like a thief" and ask yourself, does my home look like a target? Do you have tools, bikes or other valuables laying around in the yard? Is your garage door open? Do your windows and doors appear secure? Do trees and landscaping obstruct views of your home from neighbors or street traffic? Are gates closed and locked? Does it look like you take good care of your property, or would a thief look at your home and see an easy target?

Survey Instructions:

When completing the security survey, try to follow along the list and don't skip over any areas of your home. Keep in mind that every home and property will be different. In each category and item, rate your security by circling OK or NI (needs improvement). When the survey is completed you can use the list of items circled "NI" as a to-do list.

Let's get started!

Front Yard

Street numbers visible from the street, or driveway marked with reflective post.	OK	NI
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Bushes, shrubs, and trees pruned away from sidewalks, driveways, doors, and windows.	OK	NI
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Ground cover near windows consisting of small gauge granite rock that makes noise as you walk on it (river rock not recommended).	OK	NI
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Limited access to yards through fences or landscaping.	OK	NI
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Locks on gates, where applicable.	OK	NI
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Lighting that covers the entire front of the house and yard, and any hiding places.	OK	NI
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Side Yards

Lighting adequately covering each entrance (motion detector lights recommended).	OK	NI
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Lighting at adequate height to avoid damage.	OK	NI
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Bushes, shrubs, and trees are pruned.	OK	NI
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Fence and gate are secure.	OK	NI
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Back Yard

Lighting adequately covering each entrance. (motion detector lights recommended).	OK	NI
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Lighting at adequate height to avoid damage.	OK	NI
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Bushes, shrubs, and trees are pruned.	OK	NI
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Fence and gate are secure.	OK	NI
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Detached Buildings

Locks on all doors.	OK	NI
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Locks on all windows.	OK	NI
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Lighting on all entrances.	OK	NI
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Garage

Garage door kept closed when not in use.	OK	NI
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Garage door operating properly. Light functioning.	OK	NI
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Safety release rope out of reach of windows.	OK	NI
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Service door locked with deadbolt.	OK	NI
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Garage, continued

Door construction solid (solid core or metal clad).	OK	NI
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Deadbolt with minimum of 1" throw.	OK	NI
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Security strike plates with minimum 2 ½" screws.	OK	NI
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Door frame and molding tight and secure.	OK	NI
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Hinges (pins on inside or otherwise secured).	OK	NI
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Living Room

Front door entrance:	OK	NI
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Door construction solid (solid core or metal clad).	OK	NI
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Deadbolt lock with minimum 1" throw.	OK	NI
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Security strike plate with minimum 2 ½" screws.	OK	NI
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Door frame and molding tight and secure.	OK	NI
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Hinges (pins on inside or otherwise secured).	OK	NI
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Wide angle viewer (peep hole).	OK	NI
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Living Room Windows

Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
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Secondary lock in place (pin lock or keyed lock).	OK	NI
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Anti-lift devices (screws in track above slider door to prevent lift-out).	OK	NI
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Anti-slide device on sliding glass door (wood dowel or deadbolt).	OK	NI
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Privacy blinds or shades.	OK	NI
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Kitchen/Utility Room

Sliding Glass Door:	OK	NI
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Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
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Anti-slide device (wood dowel or deadbolt).	OK	NI
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Anti-lift device (Screws in track above slider door to prevent lift-out).	OK	NI
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Hinged Door

Door construction solid (solid core or metal clad).	OK	NI
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Deadbolt with minimum of 1" throw.	OK	NI
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Hinged Door, continued

Security strike plates with minimum 2 ½ " screws.	OK	NI
Door frame and molding tight and secure.	OK	NI
Hinges (pins on inside or otherwise secured).	OK	NI
Wide angle viewer (peep hole).	OK	NI

Hinged Door Windows

Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
Secondary lock in place (pin lock or keyed lock).	OK	NI

Bedrooms/Den

Sliding Glass Door:	OK	NI
Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
Anti-slide device (wood dowel or deadbolt).	OK	NI
Anti-lift device (screws in track above slider door to prevent lift-out).	OK	NI
Hinged door (exterior access):	OK	NI
Door construction solid (solid core or metal clad for exterior doors).	OK	NI
Deadbolt lock with minimum 1" throw.	OK	NI
Security strike plate with minimum 2 ½" screws.	OK	NI
Door frame and molding tight and secure.	OK	NI
Hinges (pins on inside or otherwise secured).	OK	NI

Bedrooms/Den Windows

Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
Secondary lock in place (pin locked or keyed lock).	OK	NI
Anti-lift devices (screws in track above slider door to prevent lift-out).	OK	NI
Anti-slide devices on sliding glass door (wood dowel or keyed deadbolt).	OK	NI
Privacy blinds or shades.	OK	NI

Bathrooms

Sliding glass door:	OK	NI
Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
Anti-slide device.	OK	NI
Anti-lift device.	OK	NI

Bathroom Windows

Original lock in good repair.	OK	NI
Secondary lock in place (pin lock or keyed lock).	OK	NI
Privacy blinds or shades.	OK	NI

Miscellaneous

Automatic timers for lights and radios.	OK	NI
Lights left on in multiple areas/floors while away.	OK	NI
Emergency numbers posted by each phone.	OK	NI
Hard line phones accessible on each floor of home (including basements).	OK	NI
Grillwork/roller shields on high risk doors and windows.	OK	NI
Valuables permanently marked with ID number.	OK	NI
Safe for storage of valuables (secured to floor or wall studs).	OK	NI
All house keys accounted for, spare key with trustworthy neighbor.	OK	NI
Joined or started a neighborhood watch group.	OK	NI
Considered installing monitored alarm system.	OK	NI
Own a dog or pet that will discourage intruders or alert you to their presence.	OK	NI

WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



HOME SECURITY SURVEY

Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton