

Crime Prevention Home Security Checklist



This is a guide to evaluate your home’s security, based on the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Crime prevention is a matter of balancing risk and choices, based on what is practical and what we know about criminal behavior.

This Crime Prevention Checklist is provided as a courtesy for you by the Matteson Police Department. It does not address code violations or other safety issues. While every effort has been made to incorporate reasonable means to reduce the opportunities for criminal activities to occur, there is no expressed or implied guarantee that no criminal activity will take place if these suggestions are implemented. The recommendations for improvement are based on CPTED principles, which are widely accepted in the security, law enforcement, and architectural fields.

Exterior Doors:	Yes	No	N/A
All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house – even if it's just for a few minutes.			
Doors and frames are constructed from solid hardwood or metal.			
Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.			
If there are glass panels in or near doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.			
All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door (1” throw, 3” screws).			
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.			
The locks and/or door codes were changed when we moved in.			
Entry points can be seen from public areas.			
Garage and Sliding Door:	Yes	No	N/A
The door and frame leading into the home from the garage is constructed of solid wood or metal and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.			
The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic garage door opener to provide security.			
Garage doors are all locked when we leave the house.			
The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.			
A dowel or a pin to secure the sliding glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.			
The sliding glass door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.			
Windows:	Yes	No	N/A
Every window in our home has a working lock.			
Windows are always locked while away from home. Window stops are in place to prevent the windows from opening completely.			
Outdoor Security:	Yes	No	N/A
Our property is clean and clear of debris.			

There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that could hide prowlers.			
We've used inhospitable plants or landscaping material to discourage prowlers.			
Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.			
Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.			
Outdoor lights are on in the evening whether someone is home or not or a photocell and motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.			
Our house number is clearly displayed so emergency first responders can find the house quickly.			
Shrubs/bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide (3' down/7' up).			
Security When Away From Home:	Yes	No	N/A
At least two light timers are set to turn the lights, t.v., or radio on and off in a logical sequence when we are away from home for an extended time.			
The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) is activated when we leave home.			
Mail, newspaper, and package deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up are made when we go away from home for a period of time.			
A neighbor is asked to watch our home when we are away and we sign up for the Matteson Vacation Watch Program.			
Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property:	Yes	No	N/A
Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks after every use.			
Grills, lawn mowers, bicycles and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view and securely locked to a stationary point.			
Firearms are stored unloaded, locked away and secured with trigger guard locks (and not in vehicles).			
Serial numbers of valuable items, such electronics, have been inventoried and marked in a unique manner.			
Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures of items that don't have serial numbers. A complete inventory list is kept somewhere out of the house or securely online (try www.reportit.leadsonline.com or ask your insurance company for electronic resources).			

Notes:
