



# HOME SECURITY SURVEY

This survey has been designed to help you, the homeowner, identify vulnerable areas of your home. Burglars are criminals of opportunity. If you can reduce opportunity in and around your home, then you reduce the chance of becoming a victim. Take some time to walk your home with this checklist, and carefully look at all areas. Every “no” that is checked should be addressed to fortify your dwelling.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the crime prevention officer at the St. Charles Police Department at 630-377-4435. The crime prevention officer is available by appointment to respond and walk your home with you.

## SAFE PRACTICES

YES

NO

- Do you keep a list of valuable property?
- Do you have a list of serial numbers of your electronics, lawn care equipment and similar items?
- Do you have a description (including cost) and photos of valuables, including jewelry?
- Do you keep your garage door closed and keep valuables out of view from the outside?
- Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a secure safe or bank?
- Do you hide a house key under a doormat or elsewhere?
- Does your family know what to do if they discover a burglar attempting to break in, or already in the house?
- Does your family know to leave the house undisturbed and call 911 if they discover a burglary has been committed?
- Do you keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are in the house?



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## EXTERIOR

YES

NO

- Are shrubs/bushes within 4 feet of any sidewalk, driveways, doors or gates maintained at a height of not more than 2 feet?
- Are ground plants under windows maintained at a height that is below the window sill?
- Are trees trimmed so that lower branches are more than 6 feet off the ground?
- Are lights installed around the perimeter of your house?
- Do you leave lights on in the front and rear of your house at night? Do they shine on doors?
- Is your house number illuminated or easily visible from the street during all hours?
- Have you limited access to the second story and roof by properly storing ladders, and avoiding climbable trellises and drainpipes?
- Do you keep side gates locked?
- Are there hiding places near doors, windows, garages or parking areas?

## DOORS AND ENTRY AREAS

- Are your exterior doors of solid-core construction?
- Do exterior doors have a cylinder-type deadbolt lock with at least a 1-inch throw?
- Are the door strike plates and hinges installed with 3-inch screws?
- Do the doors without cylinder locks have a heavy bolt or similar secure device that can be operated only from the inside?
- Can all of your doors be securely locked?



# HOME SECURITY SURVEY

## DOORS AND ENTRY AREAS, CONTINUED

YES

NO

- Are you locks in good operating condition?
- Are locks that can be opened from the inside at least 40 inches from side glass?
- Are entry areas unobstructed by shrubs and other décor to permit maximum visibility?
- Do sliding doors have an auxiliary lock that locks both panels, or do you have a bar or similar device?
- Do exterior lights have a minimum 60-watt light bulb?
- Do you lock your garage door when it's not in use?
- Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp or other good auxiliary lock, and can it be locked from both sides?
- Do you lock your car and take the keys out even when it is parked in a locked garage?
- Do you know everyone who has a key to your house?

## WINDOWS

- Are all windows equipped with auxiliary locks or pins, and are the locks properly and securely mounted?
- Do you keep windows locked with they are shut?
- Do you use locks that allows you to lock a window that is partially open?
- Do you have good, secure locks on garage windows?
- Do you have garage windows covered?



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## GOING ON A TRIP

YES

NO

- Do you arrange for neighbors, friends or family to pick up newspapers, mail and/or packages? Or do you stop delivery of these items?
- Do you notify a neighbor that you'll be gone?
- Do you leave some window treatments open (without creating too much visibility) so the house looks occupied?
- Do you arrange to keep your lawn maintained?
- If you go on vacation in the winter do you arrange to have snow plowed?
- Do you have timers on your lamps and exterior lights?
- Do you test your smoke and burglar alarms?