

Home Security Checklist

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked 'no' indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that your home is targeted.

EXTERIOR DOORS **YES NO**

- All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house – even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Doors are hardwood or metal-clad.
- 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, quality keyed entry lock and dead-bolt lock with at least a 1" throw.
- All deadbolt strike plates are secured with 3" screws.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

GARAGE AND SLIDING DOOR SECURITY **YES NO**

- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a working quality keyed door lock and deadbolt with at least a 1" throw.
- The overhead garage door has a latch so we do not rely entirely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- The sliding glass door has a strong working latch.
- The sliding glass door has a dowel or bar to block the door from being opened if the lock is defeated.
- A screw has been fastened in the track above the door and adjusted so that the door can not be lifted off it's track.
- The sliding door is locked and secured every night and each time we leave the house.

PROTECTING WINDOWS **YES NO**

- Every window in the house has a working lock.
- If it will not damage the window, the windows are pinned or fitted with security stops.
- The windows are always locked and secured when we leave the house.

OUTDOOR SECURITY**YES NO**

- **Shrubs and bushes are trimmed and away from the house so there is no place for someone to hide.**
- **There are no dark areas around the house, yard or garage that would hide prowlers.**
- **Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate any 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 or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.**
- **Our house number is clearly displayed so police and emergency responders can find the house quickly.**

SECURITY WHEN AWAY FROM HOME**YES NO**

- **Lights and televisions or radios are set to come on and shut off at appropriate times when we are out of the house for an extended time period.**
- **The alarm system (if we have one) is activated every time we leave the house.**
- **Mail and newspaper service has been suspended or we have made arrangements for a friend/neighbor to pick them up while we're away.**
- **A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch the house while we're away.**

OUTDOOR VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY**YES NO**

- **Gate latches, garage doors & shed doors are all locked with high Security laminated padlocks.**
- **Gate latches, garage doors & shed doors are all locked after use.**
- **Grills, lawn mowers and other valuables are all stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.**
- **Every bike is locked with a U-Bar lock or high-security padlock and chain. Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.**
- **Firearms are secured in accordance with Massachusetts Law.**
- **Valuables that can be inscribed have the owners Massachusetts drivers license number inscribed on them.**
- **We have an up-to-date inventory of valuables with pictures, and a complete copy is stored somewhere secure outside of the house.**