

NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

HOME SECURITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST



An important step in preventing home burglary and other crimes is to make sure that a residence is as secure as possible. A careful inspection by someone trained to observe security precautions can indicate features which would make entry easy — or difficult — for a prospective burglar.

Chances are good that home security can be improved. Take a hard look at entry points in your residence and determine what steps can reduce vulnerability.

A security inspection begins at the front door and goes on to include side and rear doors, windows, locks, lights, and landscaping. Checks in the orange column of this checklist indicate security weaknesses or hazards that require attention.

This survey may be used by law enforcement professionals or others trained in crime prevention. Neither the inspector, the local law enforcement agency, nor NSA have any liability to you other than to use our best judgment in this inspection and these recommendations.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to you in the community's fight against crime. We urge you not only to take steps to make your own residence safer, but also to become active in a Neighborhood Watch program for the benefit of your entire community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY CALL:

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This form was produced and distributed by
THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
in cooperation with your
local law enforcement agency

FRONT ENTRANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

- 1. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction? Yes No
- 2. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? Yes No
- 3. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? Yes No
- 4. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks? No Yes
- 5. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw? Yes No
- 6. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws? Yes No
- 7. If there are no windows in door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercom device? Yes No
- 8. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at doorway? No Yes
- 9. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock? Yes No
- 10. Is exterior or front entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt light? Yes No
- 11. Can front entrance be observed from street or public areas? Yes No
- 12. Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from street or public areas? No Yes

SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE

- 13. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction? Yes No
- 14. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? Yes No
- 15. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? Yes No
- 16. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks? No Yes
- 17. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw? Yes No
- 18. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws? Yes No

SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE

19. Can the lock mechanism be reached from outside through a delivery port or pet entrance? No Yes
20. Is the exterior of the doorway lighted by at least a 40-watt bulb? Yes No
21. Is doorway concealed from street or neighbors view by porch, fence, or landscaping? No Yes
22. Does doorway have screen or storm door with adequate lock? Yes No
23. If door is sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track? Yes No
24. Is a "charley-bar" or key-operated lock used on sliding glass door? Yes No

ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT

25. Are all entrances to living quarters from garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction? Yes No
26. Does door from garage to living quarters have locks adequate for exterior entrance? Yes No
27. Does door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from living quarters side? Yes No

GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS

28. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? Yes No
29. Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside? Yes No
30. Do any windows open onto areas that offer special risk to burglary? No Yes
31. If so, do these windows have security screens or grills? Yes No
32. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping? Yes No
33. Is exterior adequately lighted at all window areas? Yes No

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

Orange vertical bar for recommendations and comments.

UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS

34. Do any upper floor windows open onto porch or garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings? No Yes
35. If so, are they secured as adequately as if they were at ground level? Yes No
36. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows? Yes No
37. Are ladders kept outside the house where they are accessible? No Yes

BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS

38. Is there a door from outside to the basement? No Yes
39. If so, is that door adequately secured for an exterior door? Yes No
40. Is outside basement entrance lighted by exterior light of at least 40 watts? Yes No
41. Is outside basement door concealed from street or neighbors? No Yes
42. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance? Yes No

GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS

43. Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device? Yes No
44. Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times? Yes No
45. Are garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows? Yes No
46. Is outside utility entrance to garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance? Yes No
47. Are tools, ladders and other equipment kept in garage? Yes No
48. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-watt bulb? Yes No

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

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 you or 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Garage and Sliding Door Security

The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sliding glass door has a strong, working key locks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Protecting Windows

Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outdoor Security

Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

continued on back

- Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening—whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.
- Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

Yes No

- At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.
- The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

Yes No

- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are 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 bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.
- Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.