

# Residential Burglary Prevention

## TIPS

1. Always keep doors and windows locked. Approximately half of all residential burglaries are made via unforced entries.
2. A locked door or window means is held tightly in place, and does not budge when pushed, pulled, or lifted. Even if a window is open for ventilation, (up to three inches), it should be locked tight to eliminate movement.
3. In addition to having good locks, a door and jamb should be of sound construction.
4. Burglars see the average garage as a not-so-secure cache of valuables. Larger garages that store more cars experience more entries and exits, and hence more chances for a burglar's entry.
  - a. Disable any exterior electric key switches or electronic number pads that open your garage door. Use either a remote control opener or a key.
  - b. Bikes in a garage need to be locked to a sturdy bike rack (such as with a motorcycle chain and lock), at least as securely as when the bike is parked outside in public.
  - c. A secure storage compartment has sturdy walls, doors and locks like the entryway of a building.
  - d. A locked vehicle in a locked garage does not keep laptops, purses, PDAs, backpacks secure. Remove all valuables.
5. Keep the property in good repair and appearance as much as possible. Maintain visibility.
6. Mark your valuables for identification and recovery. Keep an up-to-date inventory of your valuables, include serial numbers, photographs, and physical description of each item. Engraving an email address on valuables may help identify stolen items. Try not to keep valuables in a visible location in your home.
7. Install a 180 degree wide angle door viewer on your front door and look before opening it.
8. Consider having an alarm system installed as a back up to the physical and personal security measures you have taken. Use the alarm all the time.
10. Join or start a Neighborhood Watch on your block to plan a crime prevention strategy for your block.

**Immediately report suspicious activity to the police at  
(415) 553-0123**

**Call 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

[www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org) [www.sf-police.org](http://www.sf-police.org)

