

PROTECTING YOUR HOME: 24 Tips

OUTSIDE SECURITY:

1. Make your security system sign visible. Post it at your mailbox, facing the direction of traffic approaching your home, or near the front door of your home without shrubs in the way.
2. Post a security decal on your door's window pane.
3. Leave your outside lights on at night or install a motion detector to turn-on your lights.
4. Park your car in your garage to prevent car theft and break-in.
5. Do not regularly park your car in your driveway. If you do this, then when your car is absent, a criminal knows that you are not home.

PERIMETER SECURITY (PREVENT BREAK INS):

6. Prevent kicked-in doors. Use 3" long screws for the strike plate of your door's deadbolt lock. A 3" screw will anchor the strike plate to the frame of the house.
7. Prevent kicked-in doors. Use a door jam bar and/or kick-in proof storm doors or metal burglar doors. Storm doors improve insulation. Note: Gated doors on your front door are prohibited by subdivision covenants.
8. Install double-key deadbolt locks into your doors, so that even if the window pane around your door is broken, the lock can not be opened from reaching into the inside without a key. Make sure that the locks are also bump-key proof.
9. Install a peep-hole into your front door so you can see anyone behind the door.

INSIDE SECURITY:

10. Purchase a home security system WITH A CELL PHONE OR RADIO BACKUP, in case a criminal cuts the phone lines to your home, and thereby defeat the security system.
11. Engrave your personal property. The board has an engraving pen for your use.
12. Record your expensive property (serial numbers & photographs) with your insurance company for claim purposes.
13. Purchase a safe for your home.

PHONE THE POLICE EARLY:

14. If you see suspicious activity, phone the police via 911. Say, "This is a non-emergency." And then, describe the activity. The police often need a phone call for justification to interview someone. You can also anonymously phone the **Fulton County Police Tip Line** at 404-730-6529 OR **Atlanta Police TIPS hotline**, (404) 577-TIPS. RECORD THIS PHONE NUMBER NEAR YOUR PHONE OR ON REFRIGERATOR.

WALK WITH WEAPONS. (CELL PHONE, WHISTLE, HANDHELD PANIC ALARM, PAPER AND PEN)

15. With your paper, write down license plates or any odd activity. With your cell phone, follow instruction #15.
16. Walk with your neighbors, instead of alone. Do not walk into a cul-de-sac.
- 17 **Wear** bright colored shirt or hat to prevent car accidents. Carry cell phone, whistle, handheld panic alarm, paper and pen.

CONTACT THE SUBDIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

18. The security officer for the board keeps a record of security concerns and activity for prevention purposes. The subdivision cameras may have recorded the robbery driving into or from the subdivision.

WHEN ON VACATION:

19. Let your neighbors know, so that they may pay attention to your home.
20. Leave a talk radio program on inside your house, so that a listening criminal will think that people are home.
21. Use a timer to turn your lights on and off, while you are away.
22. Ask your neighbor to put away your garbage can. A can left in your lawn, tells a criminal that the house is empty.
23. Ask your neighbor pick up your mail, packages and newspapers. A full mailbox or newspapers on your driveway, tells a criminal that the house is empty.
24. If your car is parked outside, ask your neighbor to move your car. A car in the same spot over a number of days tells a criminal that the house is empty.