

- Set lights and TV on a timer.
- Have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers and park in your driveway.
- Leave shades, curtains and blinds in their normal positions. Covered windows during the day indicate an empty house.
- If you arrive home and something seems questionable (door ajar, slit screen, etc.), do not enter the house! Call the police from a neighbor's house or your cell phone.

**Homeowner's or Renter's Insurance**

- Purchase homeowners or renter's insurance to cover your personal property damaged by fire or lightning, hurricane winds, smoke, accidental discharge of water, vandalism or theft. The insurance may also include coverage for medical expenses.

This brochure was produced with the cooperation of the

**Honorable David Cicilline**  
**Mayor of the City of Providence**  
and  
**Colonel Dean Esserman**  
**Chief of Police**

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**TIPS  
FOR  
PROTECTING  
YOUR  
HOME**



**PROVIDENCE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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Protecting your home and personal belongings is essential to your safety and security. When you are robbed or burglarized, it can feel like you have been violated. Here are some tips to help defend your home against invasion.

### Exterior Security Measures

- Trim bushes and shrubs so intruders cannot use them as hiding places
- Remove tree limbs that will allow burglars to get to an upper-story window or balcony.
- Keep all windows locked.
- Install a motion detector and strobe lights at least 8 feet above the ground.
- Install lights that will brighten dark corners of your driveway or yard.

### House Alarms

- Install a noisy alarm that will alert a neighbor or passerby of a break-in. "Barking dog" alarms make a lot of noise and can scare a burglar away.
- See if you can connect your alarm system to a nearby police station. There may be a fee for this.
- Install an inside motion sensor that will detect when someone enters or is inside your house.

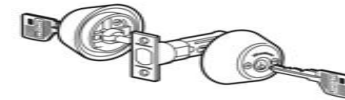
### Doors

- Exterior doors should be of solid core construction and at least 1¾ inches thick.
- Make sure your door hinges face the inside of the house.
- Install a peephole with a wide-angle lens to let you see outside without having to open the door.



- Reinforce doorframes with more than a 1/16 inch gap between the door and the frame.
- Install heavy-duty strike plates with 3- to 4-inch screws that are driven through the frame to the heavier door jamb, in order to hinder a burglar from entering.

- Use dead bolt locks with a minimum of a 1-inch throw in addition to "key-in-the-knob" locks. For doors with windows, use double key dead bolt locks. Remove the inside key to prevent burglars from breaking the glass and opening the door from the inside.



- Lock all doors leading into your house from a garage. Doors should be solid core and have the same dead bolts as front and back doors.
- Install locks and place a thick dowel snugly into the track of a sliding door.

### Windows

- Make sure all your windows have up-to-date and functioning locks.
- Secure double hung windows with a steel dead bolt to prevent them from being pried open, OR
- Drill a hole (angled downward) through the top corner of the inner frame and partially into the other window frame. Then insert a pin or nail into the hole.
- After locking casement or crank windows, remove the crank handle.
- Bolt air conditioners to the window sill or attach one-inch metal strips from one side of the window frame to the other and around the front of the air conditioner. These strips will prevent a burglar from entering, even if the air conditioner is removed from the window.
- Equip windows with shatter-resistant glass or impact-resistant acrylic or polycarbonate glazing.

### When Leaving Home

- Store valuables in a securely mounted home safe or use a locked box as a decoy in the bedroom
- Leave a small amount of money (\$100 if you live in an upscale neighborhood) in a dresser drawer. This will trick a burglar into believing he's found all the loose money inside the house.
- Find a good hiding place for the rest of your money and tell a family member about it, in case something happens to you. OR
- Hide money in a child's room since a burglar will not expect a child to have money.