

National Child Safety Council

**senior safe<sup>®</sup>**

# Home Security

- Indoors
- Outdoors
- Alarm Systems



**Presented by**

**National Child  
Safety Council**

**and your local**

**Law Enforcement  
Department**



# Home Security



## *Home Security*

**On a national average, each year about 1 out of every 12 homes will be targeted by a burglar.**

**Luck has little to do with these odds - burglars look for homes that offer easy entrance and getaway.**

**Only 7 out of 10 elderly victims report a robbery or an attempted robbery to the police.**

# Home Security



## *Home Security*

### **You may not need**

- physical strength,
- speed,
- or expensive security devices for protection,

**but you do need to be cautious, aware of your surroundings, and appear in control.**

**Robberies account for 38% of violent crimes against senior adults.**

# Home Security



## *Make Your Home Safe & Sound*

### **Doors**

- **Outside entry doors should be metal, metal-clad, or solid wood, not hollow core.**
- **Make sure your doors fit tightly in their frames.**

**Approximately 1/2 of elderly robbery victims are attacked by more than one robber.**

# Home Security



## *Make Your Home Safe & Sound*

### **Doors**

- **Keep all doors locked, including those in the basement and garage.**
- **Be sure all outside doors have non-removable hinges and deadbolt locks with a minimum one-inch throw (bolt).**

**Locks won't work if you don't use them.**

# Home Security



## Make Your Home Safe & Sound

### Doors

- **Double cylinder dead bolts** (*requiring a key for opening from the inside*) **are most secure**, but can be dangerous in a fire emergency and are prohibited in some communities.
- **Never attach an ID tag to your key chain.**
- **If you lose your key or move, install new locks right away.**

# Home Security



## *Make Your Home Safe & Sound*

### **Doors**

- **Doors with glass windows less than 40” from the lock can easily be opened by breaking the glass and reaching inside.**
  - **Replace the glass with an unbreakable pan, or replace the door.**

**60% of residential burglaries take place during the daytime, with the most in July and August.**

# Home Security



## *Make Your Home Safe & Sound*

### **Doors**

- **Install a lens peephole or wide-angle viewer in all outside doors, not just the front entry.**
  - **Make sure they are accessible to all family members – including those in a wheelchair.**

**38% of elderly victims of violent crimes faced someone with a gun.**

# Home Security



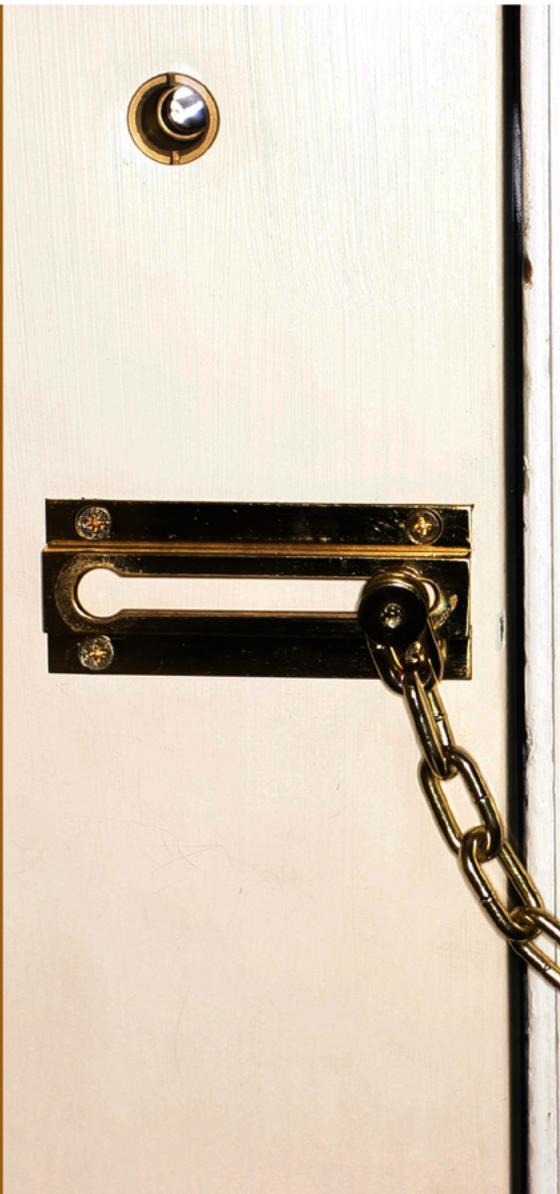
## *Make Your Home Safe & Sound*

### **Doors**

- **Never let anyone at the door know you are home alone.**
- **Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people. If you aren't sure they are who they say or if you didn't arrange the visit, call the company to verify.**

**Get to know your neighbors and ask them to keep an eye on your home.**

# Home Security



## Make Your Home Safe & Sound

### Doors

- **Use metal “charlie bars” for sliding glass doors, plus pin locks that slide a steel peg through both the stationary and movable doors. (*A wooden rod wedged into the bottom inside track is less effective.*)**
- **Chain locks are not security devices! Do not depend on them. They can be forced open.**



## Make Your Home Safe & Sound

### Windows

1. Pin locks are available for double-hung windows as well as sliding glass doors.
  - They can be installed on the side sashes as well as the center sash to allow windows to be opened a few inches and still be secure. *(These locks require only a drill for installation, so they are inexpensive.)*



## *Make Your Home Safe & Sound*

### **Windows**

- 2. Special locks for basement type windows are available in hardware stores.**
- 3. If your windows or fire escapes are equipped with grates or bars, make sure they meet fire department regulations and are easy to remove from the inside.**
- 4. Keep curtains and blinds closed at night.**



## *Outdoor Safety*

**1. If you plan to be away, make it appear as if someone is home.**

### **Have your:**

- house watched.
- pets cared for.
- mail or newspaper held or picked up.
- lawn mowed.
- lights, radio, or the TV on timers.



## *Outdoor Safety*

- 2. Keep landscaping open and short enough to offer no hiding places.**
  - **Choose thorny plants and shrubs that will not get taller than the windows to keep out prowlers.**

**Make sure your house numbers are at least 4" tall and visible from the road.**



## *Outdoor Safety*

### **3. Install outdoor lighting to shine on key areas.**

- **Leave them on at night.**
- **Motion-activated lights are highly effective for large areas which you may not wish to keep constantly illuminated.**



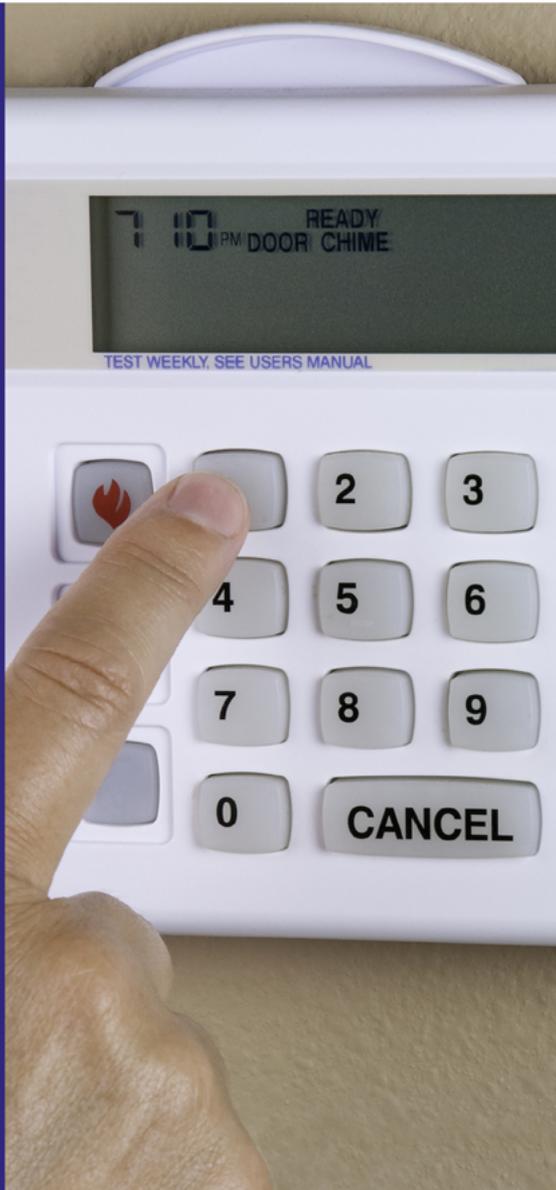
## *Outdoor Safety*

- 4. Make sure that all entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas are well lit.**
  - Check for and replace dim or burned out bulbs.
- 5. Do not leave notes about where you are and when you will return.**



## *Outdoor Safety*

- 6. Have an up-to-date household inventory list and make sure your valuables are engraved with identification.**
- 7. Check to make sure fire stairs have an emergency exit at ground level and that they are not accessible from the outside.**



## Alarm Systems

**Security systems vary widely in effectiveness and cost, even within a single community.**

Basic, monitored security service often includes a “panic button,” which also summons help in a health emergency.

- Make sure the security company you select is reputable.
- Check references.

# Home Security



## *Alarm Systems*

- Learn how to use your system properly and what to do if you accidentally set it off.
- Consider having a small pet for security purposes.

**Unmonitored alarms  
are of little use.**





## *Alarm Systems*

### **Look for these signs:**

- **A cut or removed window screen**
- **A broken window**
- **A door left open**
- **Items in disarray or moved**
- **A noise that sounds like someone breaking in or moving around in your home**



## *Alarm Systems*

### **If you are in the house:**

- 1. Do not confront the burglar.**
- 2. Try to get out of the house undetected.**
- 3. Lock yourself in a room *(with a phone)*.**
- 4. Try to get to a phone to quietly call for help.**
- 5. If the intruder enters your room, and you cannot hide, pretend to be asleep.**

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**National Child Safety Council has developed senior safe<sup>®</sup> materials geared specifically to the needs of today's active Senior.**

**The senior safe<sup>®</sup> materials make it easy for law enforcement departments or other community groups to present vital information for daily living and safeguarding lives to a group of Seniors in any setting.**

**For a complete list of NCSC senior safe<sup>®</sup> materials and other programs, visit [www.nationalchildsafetycouncil.org](http://www.nationalchildsafetycouncil.org) or call 1-800-327-5107.**



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