

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

Exterior Doors

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| | All doors are locked at night and whenever we leave the house. |
| | Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad. |
| | Doors feature peepholes. |
| | All entryway doors have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door. |
| | Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter. |

Garage and Sliding Door Security

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| | Door leading from the garage to the house is locked and has a deadbolt. |
| | Garage doors are closed – even when home. |
| | The sliding glass door has a strong working lock. |
| | Install a dowel or bar to secure the glass door, so it cannot be lifted or opened. |
| | The sliding glass door is locked every night. |

Windows

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| | Every window in the house should have a locking mechanism so that it cannot be opened from outside. |
| | Windows should be locked, especially when you are not home. |

Outdoor Security

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| | Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so they do not provide a hiding spot for someone. |
| | Make sure all outside lights work and that there are no dark areas. |
| | Every outside door should have a working bright light. |

FREDERICK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Help Us By
Reporting Crime!

Emergency: **911**

Non-Emergency: **301-600-2100**

REPORT CRIME ANONYMOUSLY:

Phone

301-600-TIPS (8477)

Text

240-674-TIPS (8477)

Email

fpdcrimetip@frederickmdpolice.org



Frederick Police Department
100 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701



Frederick Police Department

Keeping Your Home Safe



100 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-2100
www.cityoffrederick.com

EXTERIOR DOORS

Exterior doors should be made of metal or solid wood. Make sure you use strong door hinges on the inside of the door, with non-removable or hidden pins. Each entry door should be well lighted.

LOCKS

Strong, reliable locks are essential to effective home security. Always keep doors and windows locked – even a quick trip to the store is long enough for a burglar to enter your home.

Use quality keyed knobs as well as deadbolts. When choosing a deadbolt, look for such features as a bolt that extends at least one inch when in the locked position, to resist ramming and kicking.



SLIDING GLASS DOORS

Sliding glass doors can offer easy entry into your home. To improve security on existing sliding glass doors, you can install keyed locking devices that secure the doors so they can't be pushed out of their tracks; or put a piece of wood or a metal bar in the track of the closed door to prevent the door from opening even if the lock is jimmied or removed.

WINDOWS

Most standard double-hung windows have thumb-turn locks between the two window panels. Don't rely on these – they can be pried open or easily reached through a broken pane. Install keyed locking devices to prevent the window from being raised from the outside.

LIGHTING

Lighting is one of the most cost-effective deterrents to burglary. Leaving lights on indoors when you are not home gives the impression that the home is occupied.

Outdoor lighting can eliminate hiding places. Install lights near porches, doorways, deck, and all points of entry. Motion-sensing lights are a good deterrent as they automatically turn on when someone approaches.

LANDSCAPING

Your home's landscaping should provide maximum visibility to and from your house. Trim shrubbery that could conceal criminal activity near doors and windows. Provide lighting on areas of dense trees and shrubs that could serve as hiding places. Cut back tree limbs that could help thieves climb into windows.

Planting bushes that have thorns is a great option for under windows. Thieves will be less likely to gain entry to the house if they have to climb through the bushes.

GARAGES AND SHEDS

Make sure your garage, shed, and any out building are secured and locked, even if you are home. It only takes a couple of seconds for a thief to remove items.

If there are windows, cover the windows so that a potential thief cannot see inside. Also, be sure to put a deadbolt on the door between the garage and your home.



VEHICLES

*When you leave your car, leave it **empty** and leave it **locked!***

Store all items **Out of Sight**

Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time. Please remove all items from plain view this would include: spare change, clothing, sunglasses, cd's, GPS devices, MP3 players, etc.

Make sure you remove the arm for your GPS device and place it out of sight. Replace cigarette lighter or "cap" where GPS or cell phone charger was plugged into.

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

It is important to keep an inventory of all valuables including; serial number, pictures and sale receipts. Keep this information in a safe place.

Store and secure items of value such as grills and bicycles in a secure place. You can also register your bike with the Frederick Police Department. Information can be found at www.cityoffrederick.com/police.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Get to know your neighbors on each side of your home and across the street. When you are away ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and newspaper and to make checks of your house. Ask them to report any suspicious situations or people.