



Seminole County Sheriff's Office

Community Services Division - Crime Prevention Unit

Home Burglary Prevention

Home is where the heart is. It is your safe haven. Your home is the only place where you really feel at ease with your surroundings. Home is the only place where you have complete control over who makes contact with your family. Protecting your home and family are likely number one on your list of priorities. That's why home burglary is so traumatizing in most cases.

Most home burglaries occur on weekdays and during the day when most homeowners are at work. Burglaries are committed most often by young men who are looking for small items that can easily be converted into cash. Prime targets tend to be cash, jewelry, guns, laptops and other small electronics. MP3 players, cell phones and handheld video players are also very highly sought after items.

Burglars tend to go for the easiest targets so they can get in, get your valuables, and get out in a reasonable amount of time. They look for doors that do not close completely, garages with easily opened doors, and low windows they can break to climb through. Burglars commonly carry a wide array of tools with them like small pry bars, screwdrivers, pliers and small hammers, but primarily they look for easy opportunities such as unlocked doors and open garage doors.

The first step in protecting your home from burglary is to be sure all of your windows and doors lock securely. It is highly recommended that you use very strong locks that are resistant to twisting, prying and lock picking, such as Grade-1 or Grade-2. Make sure your family locks all windows and doors before leaving the house unprotected. A deadbolt is a good addition to any door. Most burglars enter the home through an easily accessible door or window or a garage door. Sliding glass doors are also considered somewhat of a welcome mat for burglars. A wide variety of locking and blocking mechanisms can help secure a glass door, but remember; it is glass. A Seminole County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Practitioner can help in selecting what might work for your home.

Open windows are obvious security risks, as they are easily accessible to burglars. Always ensure all windows are closed and securely locked. Windows should also be secured with blocking devices, so they cannot be opened as easily by force if the burglar manages to unlock it from the outside. An inexpensive fix for this potential burglar doorway is to tighten screws about half way into the upper track of the windows sliding panel so the window cannot open past a certain point.

Never forget that an open garage door is also an open invitation to steal your property!

Making use of a good security system and surveillance system is also highly recommended as a deterrent to burglary. Security system professionals supply you with stickers you can place in visible areas that inform potential burglars that your home is protected.

Help us help you! Make your home a "Hard Target" against burglary. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at crimeprevention@seminolesheriff.org and ask for a free **Home Security Assessment**.

100 Bush Blvd.. Sanford. Florida 32779

Phone: 407-665-6977

www.seminolesheriff.org

Fax: 407-665-6658