



21 Ways to Protect Yourself & Your Home

- 1.** Keep all doors and windows locked, even if you are just going out for a minute. If a window is left open a few inches for ventilation, pins or dowels should be inserted in the tracks to prevent someone from opening it more.
- 2.** Lock gates, garages and sheds after each use.
- 3.** Store bicycles, mowers, ladders, etc. in a locked garage or shed, or secure them to some stationary point.
- 4.** Don't leave notes on your door when you are away from home.
- 5.** Don't leave keys in mailboxes or planters, under doormats or in other obvious hiding spots. Leave an extra key with a neighbor.
- 6.** Learn to recognize who belongs in your neighborhood, i.e., residents, workers, guests, etc.
- 7.** Know who's at your door before opening it. Check photo registration card before dealing with any solicitors, peddlers, interviewers, etc.
- 8.** Be suspicious of people making unsolicited offers of services.
- 9.** Post a "NO SOLICITING" sign if you don't want any solicitor to ring your doorbell or knock on your door.
- 10.** Ask for photo identification before letting anyone you don't know into your home. Check out the identification with their company or agency if you are suspicious.
- 11.** Never let a stranger enter your home to use the telephone. Offer to make the call yourself in an emergency.

- 12.** Don't give your name, phone number or whereabouts on your answering machine message. Never say you aren't home. Just ask the caller to leave a message.
- 13.** Don't leave your home keys on a chain with your vehicle keys when you use valet parking.
- 14.** Never leave your garage door opener in the car when it is parked outside. Keep your vehicle registration, proof of insurance and any other papers with your home address on them where a criminal is not likely to find them.
- 15.** Don't give maids, babysitters or others working in your home access to your home keys or alarm codes.
- 16.** Report any suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood to the Sheriff's Department non-emergency number, (503) 874-5115. If you see a burglary in progress call 911.
- 17.** Call 911 if you are at home and think someone might be breaking in.
- 18.** Don't go in or call out if you return home and suspect someone has broken into your home, e.g., if a window or screen is broken, a door is ajar or a strange vehicle is parked in the driveway. Go to a neighbor's home and call 911.
- 19.** Don't discuss your assets or finances with strangers.
- 20.** Don't keep large sums of money at home.
- 21.** Keep valuable papers, stocks, bonds, expensive jewelry, coin collections, etc. in a bank safe deposit box. Don't store them at home unless you have a security closet or a safe that is well hidden and cannot be removed.



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