

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT HOME SECURITY CHALLENGE

COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT



Is the security in your home sufficient enough to deter a criminal?

See how your home measures up—and learn how you can make your home a harder target for potential burglars.

1. Are there clear views of all windows and doors? Yes___ No___

The more private an area is, the more likely it is to attract the attention of a criminal. Trim trees and shrubs that block sight lines to your windows and doors.

2. In the evening, is there visible interior or exterior lighting that gives the impression that you are home, even if you're not? Yes___ No___

Install outside lighting to eliminate dark areas around doors or windows. Use motion lights with a low intensity feature as an alternative to bright constant level lighting.

3. Do all of your exterior doors have a deadbolt with at least a one-inch throw?

Yes___ No___

Criminals with tools easily defeat conventional key in the knob locks. Deadbolts should be installed on all exterior doors.

4. Are the screws that secure your entry doors and strike plates of your home at least 3 inches long? Yes___ No___

Most door installations use screws less than one inch in length. This results in a door that appears secure but is relatively weak and easily prone to being kicked in. Door kick break-ins to homes are becoming common. To secure a door properly the screws should be at least three inches long.

5. Have you taken steps to reinforce any windows/glass located in or next to doors?

Yes___ No___

Glass within 40 inches of a door lock can be broken and a criminal can reach inside to unlock the door. The security of windows at the sides of doors can be improved by adding a polycarbonate panel, or other materials.

6. Can you clearly see who is at the door without opening it?

Yes___ No___

Every entrance door should have a convenient way of clearly seeing who is there without opening it. For most doors this will require the installation of a wide-angle lens peephole or door scope. Chain locks



should not be used as a security device as they are easily broken. Security screen doors provide additional security to any door. It's safest not to open up the door at all to strangers.

7. If you have a sliding door, do you have screws in the top of the track to prevent the door from being lifted out when the doors are in the closed or locked position?

Yes___ No___

There is a one-inch gap at the top of sliding glass doors, which allow them to be lifted out of the tracks. Install three flat head screws in the upper track of the doors in the closed position to prevent criminals from lifting them out.

8. If you have a sliding glass door, do you have a snug fitting wooden or a metal dowel in the bottom track, or a security bar to prevent the door from opening? Yes___ No___

The standard locks on sliding doors are easily defeated. A snug fitting metal or wooden dowel should be added. Other secondary locking devices should be considered.

9. Do your windows have a pin, thumb turn lock, or other secondary after market locking devices in case the normal window lock is defeated? Yes___ No___

Most window locks are easily defeated. Criminals target windows because they are easy to jimmy open. Pinning your windows, using thumb turn locks with screws and drilled holes, putting screws in the top track, or using snug fitting wooden or metal dowels are all methods to be used to prevent your windows from being opened by a criminal.

10. Do you always close and lock your garage door? Yes___ No___

Thefts from garages are one of the most common, yet easily prevented crimes. Keep garage doors closed and locked. Keep ladders in the garage.

11. Have you engraved your valuable items and taken pictures of those you can't engrave? Yes___ No___

To see how your home measures up, please add up the number of "Yes" responses and find out if you need to take action!

0-5 "Yes" answers: There appears to be very little security in place. Please consider improving your security.

6-10 "Yes" answers: You are security conscious. Your home needs few improvements to become a more difficult target.

11 "Yes" answers: You have taken necessary home security measures to deter a potential burglar. Your home is a difficult target.

For more information please contact the Community Relations Unit of Chula Vista Police Department at 619 691-5187