

Burglars do more than Steal

Burglars can commit rapes, robberies, and assaults if they are surprised by someone coming home or if they pick a home that is occupied.

- If something looks questionable- a slit screen, a broken window, or an open door don't go in. Call the police from your cell phone, or from a neighbors house.
- At night, if you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call the police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police. If an intruder is in your room pretend that you are asleep.
- Improper use of firearms results in many accidental deaths in the home every year. If you own a gun learn how to store it and use it safely.

There's more you can Do

- Join a Neighborhood Watch group. If one doesn't exist, you can start one with help from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home.



Sheriff Ken J. Mascara

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Residential Security



Burglars look for easy targets, so....
MAKE IT TOUGH!



**ST. LUCIE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Ken J. Mascara

If you were locked out of your house, would you still be able to get in? Maybe you keep an unlocked window in the back, or a hidden key in your mailbox or on top of a window ledge?

You may think this is a good idea, but you should understand that if you can break in, so can a burglar!

For a small amount of time and money you can make your home more secure and reduce your chances of being a victim.

Many Burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds to try breaking into a home. Goods locks and good neighbors can be big deterrents to burglars.

Almost half of all completed residential burglaries are from entry through unlocked doors or windows.



Check the Locks

- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well installed dead bolt lock. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough.
- Sliding glass doors can offer easy access if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by installing commercially available locks or putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door. To prevent the door being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame, then insert a pin in the hole.
- Lock double-hung windows with key locks or “pin” windows by drilling a small hole into a 45 degree angle between the inner and outer Frames, then insert a nail that can be removed. Secure basement windows with grilles or grates.
- Instead of hiding keys around the outside of your home, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks.

Check the Doors

A lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car door but leaving the window down.

- All outside doors should be metal or solid wood.
- If your doors do not fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them.
- Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and do not keep out intruders.

Check the Outside

Look at your house from the outside. Make sure you know the following tips:

- Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on at night.
- Keep your yard clean. Prune back shrubbery so it doesn't hide doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that a thief could use to climb to an upper-level window.
- Clearly display your house number so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.
- If you travel, create the illusion that you're at home by getting some timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house.
- Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions and do not let your mail pile up. Call the post office to stop delivery or have a neighbor pick it up.
- Make a list of your valuables- electronic components, computers, jewelry. Take photos of the items and list their serial numbers and descriptions. Check with law enforcement about engraving your valuables through Operation Identification.
- Call the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office at 772-871-5303 for a free residential security survey!

