

# VACATION SAFETY TIPS

A few simple steps can help keep your home safe and reduce worry while you are away.

**Have a Trusted Friend or Relative:**

- Collect your mail, newspapers and advertisements daily
- Mow your lawn, water flowers and perform other yard work as needed
- Park their car in your driveway when possible

**Steps to Take before Leaving:**

- Install timers on some lights, radios or televisions
- Install motion detector lighting or dusk-to-dawn sensors outside
- If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is properly set
- Inspect all doors and windows including the garage doors to make sure they are properly secured

When you plan your vacation, take a few moments to call your neighborhood precinct to take advantage of our Vacation Inspection Program.

Remember – the more your home appears occupied while you are away, the less likely you are to become a burglary victim.

Dear Resident:

It is hard to predict where or when a burglary may occur. You can take a few of the following steps to prevent it from happening:

Use appliance timers to change lighting patterns and make your home look occupied when you are away, turn on a radio for noise to make it appear someone is home.

Install motion sensing light fixtures outside to reduce dark places near your home.

Close your garage doors at night or any time you are away.

When planting bushes or landscaping, avoid concealing your doors or windows. Overgrown shrubbery provides a hiding place and protects an intruder from detection.

I would like to personally thank you for your interest in the prevention of crime in your community and I hope that you found this brochure to be informative. With your help and that of local Neighborhood Watch groups, we can have an impact on the deterrence of not only burglary, but all crime in our neighborhoods.

St. Louis County Police Chief

# Police Services

Resources	
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	636-529-8210
TTY Hearing Impaired	636-529-8220 or 911

Precincts	
North County	314-615-4297
Central County	314-615-0111
Aftton-Southwest	314-638-5550
South County	314-615-0162
City of Fenton	636-349-8120
City of Wildwood	636-458-9194
West County	636-225-0425
City of Jennings	314-385-4672



The St. Louis County Police Department is interested in citizen's opinions about our agency and its employees. Please visit the website below and take our survey.

[www.stlouiscountypolice.com/citizen-resources/citizen-satisfaction-survey/](http://www.stlouiscountypolice.com/citizen-resources/citizen-satisfaction-survey/)



[stlouiscountypolice.com](http://stlouiscountypolice.com)

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# Burglary Prevention



St. Louis County Police Department  
7900 Forsyth Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

A Neighborhood Watch is created to obtain citizen involvement in helping discourage and prevent residential crime. The Neighborhood Watch encourages citizens to secure their homes and personal property and emphasizes the importance of calling the police when you see suspicious activity.

The tips in this brochure are just a few of the many easy ways to make your home more secure and increase your safety.

For more information on establishing a Neighborhood Watch and other community service programs, please call your area precinct or visit our web site at:

[www.stlouiscountypolice.com](http://www.stlouiscountypolice.com)

# PERSONAL SECURITY

Do not confront a burglar. If you arrive home and find an open door or window, or come face-to-face with an intruder, leave immediately and call 911.

No property is worth the risk you take by confronting a thief. Police officers are trained and equipped to address these situations. If you hear an alarm sound, do not investigate it yourself. Call 911 and wait for officers to arrive.

If you see a crime or are the victim of a crime, call 911. Give the information requested by the dispatcher and, if necessary, stay on the line until police officers arrive.

# BURGLAR ALARMS

Residential burglar alarms are available from electrical and hardware dealers or may be purchased or leased from alarm companies.

Prior to installing an alarm, call several reputable companies and ask them for a written estimate. The estimate should include installation costs. Compare the products and services before deciding which alarm you want to install.

A good alarm system should include:

- A fail-safe battery backup
- Readable display panel to check the status/condition of the system
- Horn sounding device installed in the attic near a vent
- Informational support and customer training provided by the alarm company
- St. Louis County ordinance requires that any system with an audible alarm be equipped with a 30-minute timer

DO NOT have an automatic dialer system that calls the police department. These are illegal in St. Louis County. When the alarm is activated, personnel from the alarm company must call the police.

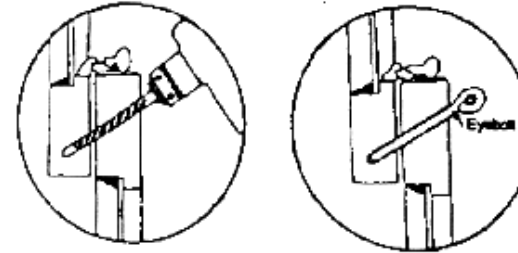
Additional home security tips can be found on the internet by searching home security tips.

# LOCKS AND DOOR KNOBS

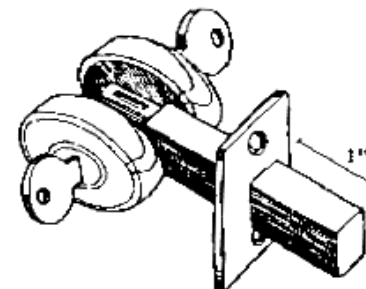
Some window locks can be easily opened from the outside using a small amount of effort.

To make these windows more secure, drill holes at an angle and in-stall eye-bolts (see below). This will prevent intruders from entering and allows you to leave easily in an emergency.

Most entry door knobs have locks in them, however, it is best to install an additional deadbolt lock. The dead-bolt lock should have



at least a one-inch throw (see below).



**Deadbolt locks** should meet the following guidelines:

The bolt should extend one inch in the locking position.

The portion of the lock that will be mounted outside should contain a cylinder guard to prohibit twisting the lock with a wrench. The guard should be solid metal and not hollow casting or stamped metal.

No exposed screw heads should be on the outside.

**Remember** – even with the increasing concerns over crime in America, reports show that most entries are made through unlocked doors and windows.

Sliding glass doors present a security problem if special steps are not taken to prevent removal of the door.

Sliding glass doors can be lifted from the track and removed by pushing up the bottom of the door. To prevent this, insert a 1¼ inch sheet metal screw into the top of the door frame. This will prevent the sliding door from being lifted off the track (see below).

