

## Residential Burglary Prevention Checklist

### COMMUNITY

- Get to know your neighbors. Gather regularly for fun, informal events and exchange contact information. Neighbors who know and trust each other will look out for each other.
- Plant flowers and play croquet...or something. Spend time outside and take the time to spruce up your yard and entry. A street that looks active and tidy can be less appealing to criminals than a seemingly-deserted, unkempt one.
- Learn to associate residents with their homes and their vehicles. Learn their daily schedules and habits. If you know what is the norm, it is easier to identify what is out of the ordinary.
- Know your block map: Obtain a copy of a household grid map with corresponding addresses to aid in accurately reporting home locations.
- Make sure you and your neighbors immediately call 911 to report suspicious activity. The police can't be everywhere all the time, so they appreciate your eyes and ears. Go with your gut; it's okay to be wrong. It's better to be safe than sorry.



### WINDOWS

- Secure air conditioners. Burglars can gain entry by pushing in the unit. Bolt the air conditioner to the frame of the window, or otherwise secure the unit.
- Lock windows nightly. If windows are locked in an upward position, allow a maximum of 6" of opening. A burglar can enter with as little as 8" of clearance.
- Draw your blinds to prevent burglars from seeing electronics through windows.

### LIGHTING

- Keep outside lights on: Leave lights on all night long in both the front and back of the house. Use motion sensors in outer perimeter areas like the garage.
- Assess indoor lighting: Consider leaving a light on all evening & using dimmer lights at night.

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## DOORS

- Develop a habit of locking your doors, even when you are home and active in the yard. A burglary can occur in a very short period of time.
- Assess the locks on your doors: Burglars can enter homes by kicking in locked doors. Choose longer strike plates and upgrade to 3" screws.
- Develop a habit of putting purses and wallets in an upper-level closet: Keeping these items away from the main entry and windows reduces the odds of a quick theft.

## GARAGES

- Keep garage/service doors locked at all times to prevent burglars from scoping out the contents.
- Make sure your garage windows/doors are in good repair.
- Keep your garage door opener out of sight in your car. Burglars have used them to gain access to garages.

## NOISE

- Create the illusion of occupancy night and day: Add some background noise such as a radio.
- Dogs are proven deterrents.



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**REMEMBER: CALL 911 to report suspicious activity.**

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There is no such thing as a suspicious person – but there is suspicious behavior. Note the characteristics of a person behaving suspiciously, such as height and build. Also record car license plate numbers, make and model, and direction of travel to assist police.



*Hamline Midway Coalition provides crime prevention information and support for new and existing block clubs. For more information, contact Faith at the Hamline Midway Coalition by calling (651) 494-7683 or sending a message to [faith@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:faith@hamlinemidway.org).*

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