

# 10 Ways to Make Your Home Safe



## 10 Things You Can Do Right Now to Make Your Home More Secure

### 1. Make your house look occupied at all times.

Use automated schedules to switch lights on and off when you're not at home.

### 2. Light up entrances.

If the outside entrances to your home are dark, install lighting with an infrared detector or simply add them to your automation schedule.

### 3. Use deadbolt locks.

Install 1-inch throw deadbolt locks on your front and back doors. A spring-latch lock is easy prey for burglars who are experts at "jimmying" a door open with a plastic card. Better yet, install Z-Wave locks and control them remotely or on a regular schedule!

### 4. Install pin locks on windows.

Factory window latches are no match for a burglar with a pry bar. You can install an inexpensive pin in just a few minutes. Drill a hole to lock the window closed, and a second hole a few inches up to lock the window partly open for ventilation.

### 5. Keep all doors and windows locked when no one is home.

A simple measure—even if you're just running a quick errand—but one that is often ignored. If you leave a window open for ventilation, insert pins or dowels in the tracks to prevent burglars from opening it more.

### 6. Conceal your home alarm wiring.

Burglars often look for wiring around the exterior of a house and can cut it to disable an alarm system. In most cases, we recommend wireless systems, but if yours is hardwired, painting the wires is one way to camouflage them.

### 7. Remove trees or shrubs near access points.

Consider removing trees or shrubbery located near your windows. They serve as convenient hiding places for intruders.

### 8. Keep your spare key with a friend or neighbor.

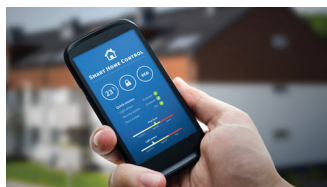
Leave a spare key with a trusted friend/neighbor, instead of in your mailbox, a flower pot, or under a doormat—the first places thieves will look.

### 9. Invest in a sturdy safe.

Safes can protect small, expensive items against thieves. Be sure to fasten your safe to the floor or wall. Safes go up in price for options such as fire protection and digital fingerprint-reading systems. Install an asset protection sensor, so you'll know if anyone is even trying to mess with it.

### 10. Get a free onsite security review from Commercial Fire & Security.

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