



16 SECURITY FACTS EVERY HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW

Movies and rumors seem to form the basis of burglary and home security knowledge for most Americans. We've all seen how the classic burglar works in Hollywood representations, but what are the real facts when it comes to burglaries? Use this guide to educate yourself and make the necessary home security adjustments.



FACT #1

A home break-in happens every 15 seconds in the United States.

According to the **Electronic Security Association**, a burglary, or home break-in, occurs four times per minute on average. Furthermore, a robbery, which is defined as the actual taking of an item during a burglary, occurs every 1.5 minutes.

FACT #2

Most burglaries occur between 9AM and 3PM.

According to the **National Crime Prevention Council**, most burglaries occur during this time frame of the day because burglars know that many homeowners are at work. Thieves view the daytime as a prime window of opportunity to attempt a break-in.



February -
the least
crime prone
month



May to
September -
the most
crime prone
months

FACT #3

Crimes peak during summer months.

Burglaries tend to spike during summer months because homes are left unoccupied for extended periods of time when owners are on vacation. February is the least crime prone month as many homeowners stay inside to avoid the cold; snow-fall also acts as a burglary deterrent as footprints become visible.



FACT #4

Most burglars use simple tools to break into homes.

Most burglars use commonly found tools to burglarize homes, anything from pliers and screwdrivers to ropes or hammers, according to **LegalMatch.com**.



FACT #5

Most burglars are from your own neighborhood.

Most home burglars are not professionals but rather live within 2 miles of your home and know your house, street and your coming and going patterns.



FACT #6

The most common break-in method used by burglars is to simply kick in a door.

According to the **Bureau of Justice Statistics**, damaging or removing a door was the most common type of entry in forcible and attempted entry burglaries. Burglars tend to target side entrance doors, sliding doors, or screen doors.



FACT #7

Burglars usually break into a home in less than 60 seconds.

The **Electronic Security Association** reports that burglars spend under a minute breaking into a home. Logically, the more difficult it is to gain access to a home, the more likely a burglar is to reconsider an attack.

66%

FACT #8

More than half of all burglaries in the U.S. are home break-ins.

The **National Crime Prevention Council** reports that 66 percent of all burglaries are residential.



FACT #9

Homes without alarm systems are 3 times more likely to be burglarized.

According to the **Electronic Security Association**, the odds of a home without an alarm system getting burglarized are triple that of a home with an alarm system.

FACT #10

30% of all break-ins are through an open or unlocked door or window.

The **Electronic Security Association** study also found that nearly a third of all burglars entered a home through an unlocked point of entry on a house.



FACT #11

An open window from the street is the most common invitation for a break-in.

The mere sight of an open window from the street is the only invitation burglars may need to target a home. According to **crimedoctor.com**, often open windows are the sole reason for a home to be selected by a burglar.



FACT #12

Simple precautions that can prevent burglaries are often overlooked...

Installing heavy-duty deadbolt locks and strike-plates, and changing locks when moving into a new residence are simple ways to deter burglars. The **National Crime Prevention Council** sights quality locks and strike plates among their top tips for preventing burglaries.



FACT #13

Thieves usually bypass a house if they suspect it has a security system.

This goes back to the study conducted by the **Electronic Security Association**, signs and window decals alluding to the presence of a security system are strong deterrents. However, fake signs and decals can increase a home's vulnerability to burglary. The **ESA** estimates 74% of uncompleted intrusions can be credited to an audible alarm system.

FACT #14

Security systems can be purchased and installed in three ways:

Do It Yourself – By the Homeowner.

Through a Cable or Phone Company – As a Bundled Service.

Through a Professional Licensed Security Company such as **Commercial Fire & Security**.



FACT #15

If you install a professionally monitored security system in your home, insurance companies should offer discounts of up to 20%.

A study conducted by the **Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice** found premium discounts of up to 20% if a home is equipped with a monitored home alarm system.



FACT #16

Only 17% of homes in the U.S. have security systems.

According to **RealtyToday.com**, less than a fifth of U.S. homes are equipped with a security system. An estimated 2.5 million home intrusions are committed each year.

So don't become another statistic, install a security system from **Commercial Fire & Security (855) 237-3300**.

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