



## FSA – Keeping You Safe

### How to Prevent a Home Burglary

Burglary is the most common threat to our home. In fact, according to the FBI, 1 out of 3 residential assaults are a result of a burglary. Somewhere in the U.S. there's a home burglary committed every 13-15 seconds. A burglary can have a major impact on your family's sense of safety and well-being and can cause you to lose more than a few possessions.

There are many things you can do to enhance your home security and make your house burglary-resistant. Locking your doors at all times and calling the 911 when you see suspicious activity are valuable tips to protecting your home. We also encourage you to follow these tips from the [Office of Attorney General Pam Bondi](#):

- Invest in solid doors and good quality locks on doors and windows. This includes on all sliding glass doors as well. Make it not only difficult but also time consuming for a burglar to gain entry.
- Whenever you go outside, lock the door and take the key with you, even if you are just stepping next door or out mowing the back yard.
- Don't put valuables where they can be seen from the window, especially items that can be easily carried.
- Be sure your garage door can be secured. Do not leave it open when you are away; an empty garage broadcasts your absence.
- When you aren't home, use a timer set to turn interior lights on and off at varying intervals as though your home was still occupied.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash or really valuable jewelry around the house.
- If someone comes to your door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself. Don't invite them in.
- Don't hide a spare key under the door mat or under a flower pot. Thieves know all the good hiding places.
- Plant thorny bushes under all windows. Trim back any trees or shrubs near doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for would-be thieves.
- Invest in a good security system along with motion sensor lights installed out of reach

*For more crime prevention tips and additional resources please visit the [Florida Sheriffs Association's Center of Excellence](#)*

- Don't leave ladders outside. Keep any tools that could be used to break in your home safely locked away in a garage or shed.
- Get a barking dog or "beware of dog" signs. If you own a dog and go out of town, have someone come in and care for your dog in your home.
- Always double check doors at night and lock all windows.
- Engrave all valuables such as stereos, microwaves, video cameras, with your driver's license number. (Engraving tools are usually available through your local law enforcement agency.) Videotape the contents of your home. Keep the video and the list of all valuables in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box.

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