

Home Security Hardware

Home Security Tips

- An unlocked lock is not a lock. Always lock your doors and windows even when leaving for just a minute.
- House numbers should be visible from the street. In rural areas, a last name or number should be displayed on the mailbox. This is important for law enforcement, fire or medical personnel responding to a call.
- Never put your first name on a mailbox. Use initials and last name only.
- Doors, windows and yards should be well lit at night. Try using LED lighting, that is a minimum of 1,200 lumens. The light should be on all night, or motion sensor lights should be installed. The light from the bulb should emit approximately 50 feet from the residence, or out into the street.
- Don't leave notes indicating you are not home, or when you will return.

Hinged Doors

- All exterior hinge doors should be of solid-core construction and at least 1 3/4 inches thick. The doorframe should also be of solid construction.
- There is usually a small "air pocket" behind the molding of the doorframe.
- Do not use the screws provided with the hinge or strike plate, or replace the existing screws.
- The screw provided is usually 3/4" long. This length of screw will typically only go into the molding, but not the 2x4 studs. A #9 3.5" screw should be used in the strike plate, and the hinges.
- Shims are typically used to square a doorframe, creating the gap between the molding and the doorframe itself.
- The throw from the dead bolt should be 1" long, from the door.



Outside hinges

- Exterior doors with hinges on the outside provide a burglar with easy access to your home. This situation can be corrected in the following ways:
 1. Have the hinges remounted on the inside of the frame so that the door swings inward;
 2. Install a set of hinges with non-removable hinge pins; or,
 3. Install a locking pin in the existing hinge plate. The instructions of how to do this is as follows:
 - Remove the center screws from the plates of each hinge.
 - Insert a “headless” screw, bolt or nail in the doorjamb through the hole in the hinge plate. Leave ½ inch of the screw, bolt or nail protruding.
 - Drill a ¾ inch hole through the opening in the opposite hinge plate on the door.



Once this is complete, as the door closes, the pin in the jamb will penetrate the hole in the door and the door will be held in position even if the hinge pins are removed.

Locks for hinge doors

- Secure all exterior doors with deadbolt locks, having one-inch throw or vertical drop bolt.
- If there are no windows in or near the door, a single cylinder deadbolt is recommended.
- If your door has glass panes, or if there are windows within 40 inches of the lock, a double cylinder deadbolt lock is recommended, so that a key is required from either side of the door.

CAUTION: Many communities prohibit the use of a double cylinder deadbolt lock because it may be hazardous if the door it secures is to be used as a fire emergency exit. In the City of Burleson, multi-family communities (i.e. apartments, etc.) cannot use double cylinder deadbolt locks. Consult your local fire department or fire marshal’s office. If used in your home, a key should be left in the inside cylinder whenever the home is occupied.
- Whenever installing a deadbolt, attach the strike plate to the doorframe with four to six, 3.5-inch wood screws. The screws should penetrate through to a structural frame.
- Deadbolt locks (single and double cylinder) should meet the following criteria:
 1. The bolt must extend a minimum of one inch and contain a hardened steel insert.

2. The deadbolt should contain a cylinder guard to prohibit twisting of the lock with a wrench or pliers. It must be solid metal.
3. The keyway should contain a five-pin tumbler system to increase the difficulty to pick the lock.
4. The connecting screws that hold the lock together must be on the inside and made of casehardened steel. Exposed screw heads should not be on the outside.
5. The connecting screws must be at least 1/4 inch in diameter and go into solid metal stock, not screw posts.

Sliding glass doors and windows

To prevent sliding glass doors or windows from being lifted from the track, it is recommended that a 1 ¼-inch large head sheet metal screws be inserted into the top of the doorframe at both ends and in the middle. These screws should be adjusted so that the door/window barely clears them when it is operated.



Supplemental locks or pins can also be installed at the top and/or bottom, and/or wooden dowels can be placed in the inside bottom track to prevent the door or window from opening.

Double-hung sash type windows

To secure these windows, drill a hole that angles slightly downward through a top corner of the bottom window into the bottom corner of the top window, on both sides. Then place an eyebolt or nail into the hole to prevent the window from being opened. Auxiliary latches or locks may also be purchased.

The most effective protection for double-hung windows is a key-locking security sash lock. Mount the lock with 2-inch wood screws.

Garage doors

The interior door leading from the garage to the house should be considered an entry door. It should be a solid-core door with a good quality deadbolt lock and secured hinge pins.

Garage doors should be closed to help prevent theft of items from the garage. To help prevent someone from entering into a closed garage door, the red pull cord to disengage the motor

should have the handle cut off. A loop made of a material like shoe laces, twine, thin rope or non-rigid material can be used. If this is done, a fire escape plan should be in place to escape through the garage if in an emergency. By cutting off the handle on the red cord, this makes it where someone would not be able to insert a clothes hanger or metal hook into the garage and disengage the rope.

Alarms

Residential burglary alarms are available from electrical, cellular and hardware dealers, or entire systems may be leased or purchased from alarm companies. Prior to installing an alarm system, check with your local law enforcement agency to determine if there is an alarm ordinance in your area. The City of Burleson does have an alarm ordinance which advises the need for an alarm permit. (Burleson City Ordinance Division 2 – Alarm Registration; Sec. 30-81 – Registration required; application fee; transferability; false statements.)

Most residential alarms emit a loud noise from a bell, siren, or tone generator. An audible alarm on doors and windows can be an effective deterrent to the amateur burglar. Prior to installing an audible alarm, if you live in an HOA make sure they allow you to have a tone generator outside of the residence. Make sure that your family and neighbors are knowledgeable about its function and that they know to call your law enforcement agency when they hear the alarm.

There are many types of alarms on the market. A local company specializing in burglar alarm systems will save you money in service calls. Get several estimates and then decide which alarm is best for your needs. There are wired and wireless systems, some are easier to install yourself, others may be too difficult to install yourself.

Any alarm system should include: a fail-safe battery backup; fire sensing capability (ionization sensors are best); readout ability to check the working of the system; and, a horn sounding device installed in the attic through the vent.

DO NOT install a dialer alarm system which calls the police or sheriff's department. During a major disaster, this type of alarm will completely block incoming phone lines at the police or sheriff's department.

DO NOT DEPEND ONLY UPON AL ALARM TO PROTECT YOU... BE SURE TO USE THE PROPER LOCKING DEVICES.



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