



## Home Safety and Security Tips

*Here, we present you with some basic, yet, invaluable tips for maintaining safety and security around the home. Not just your Aunt May's variety of "common sense" quotables either. We bet there are some tips here that even she wouldn't have thought of!*

*Although we have many items to assist you with these tips (steering wheel locks, door locks, personal vaults, pepper spray & more) please note that these tips are taken from outside, relevant sources. Please visit our product areas for the right solutions for you.*

## Preventing a Burglary

A burglary occurs every 14 seconds in the United States, and two-thirds of those break-ins are residential. The longer a break-in takes, the better the chances that the burglar will be caught. Here are ideas to use that add more security to your home.

- Lock your doors at night and every time you leave the house- even if it is just for a few minutes.
- Install a security-rated door (preferably solid wood or metal-clad) with a peephole, e.g. a flush wood lumber core door, 1-3/4 inches thick or a hollow metal 18-gauge door.
- Upgrade hardware on perimeter doors and windows, as well as inside privacy fences that will survive a 60 second burglar attack.
- Use a deadbolt lock with a one-inch bolt throw on doors. The lock should be furnished with at least two one-quarter-inch case hardened bolts. It should be equipped with a cylinder

guard to prevent a wrenching attack with pliers or vise grip type tools, and should be placed at least 12 inches above the doorknob and at least 40 inches away from windows, glass panels and other openings such as mail slots.

- Keep your windows closed, and lock them, even in the open position. Make sure the lock cannot be defeated from the outside. Secure sliding glass doors with a specially designed steel or wood bar, which prevents prying or jimmying. It is also a good idea to install a series of roundhead screws and angle irons to secure the stationary panel.
- Prepare your master bedroom for use as an emergency refuge in the event that an intruder comes into your home while you are inside. Install a solid wood door with a quality lock and equip the room with a phone, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and noisemaker.
- Install a secondary lock on the garage door. Do not count on the automatic garage door opener for security.
- Make sure that there is no camouflage around the back door, basement windows, ground level windows and the front door. Trim shrubs below sill height and install bright lights in entrance areas to illuminate visitors.
- Make an agreement with your neighbors to watch each other's homes for suspicious activity.
- Make your home look lived in. If you are away for an extended period of time, stop mail delivery, have interior lights on timers, leave a radio playing, etc...
- Keep your home well lit and visible through the night.
- Install motion-sensored lighting in landscaping.
- Do not hide your key in obvious places, such

as under the doormat or flowerpot, or above the doorframe.

- Do not leave ladders outside. Keep any tools that could be used to break in your home safely locked away in a garage or shed.
- Do not put valuables where they can be seen from the window, especially small, portable items.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry around the house. Consider having a safe deposit box.
- Videotape the contents of your home. Keep the video, along with a list of all your valuable possessions in a safe deposit box.
- If a stranger comes to the door, asking to use the phone, do not let him in. Make the call yourself.
- Secure all outdoor and personal property such as bikes, grills, lawn mowers, patio furniture, pool gates, etc. with quality cable locks, u-locks and padlocks to prevent theft.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible so police and EMS vehicles can find your home easily.
- Contact your local police department and ask to speak with the crime prevention officer. They are trained to assess the needs of homeowners by doing a simple security survey. They can then recommend hardware and certain security procedures to eliminate or reduce the risk of burglary.
- If you arrive home, only to find that the door is open, DO NOT go inside. Instead go to a neighbor's house and immediately call the police. There is a chance that the intruder is still inside the house, and you do not want to put yourself in danger

## Safe Firearm Storage

- Children are at increasing risk of fatal injury

from guns every day in this country. Although the best safety measure that you can take is to avoid having a gun in your home, educating your child about gun safety and providing adult supervision are two effective ways to discourage accidents and acts of violence.

### *If you own a gun:*

- Always keep your gun unloaded and locked.
- Ask police for advice on safe storage and gun locks.
- Lock and store bullets in a separate location.
- Make sure children never have access to the keys.
- The best way to reduce gun risks is to remove the gun from your home.

### *If you do not own a gun:*

- Talk with your children about the risk of gun injury outside the home in places where they may visit and play.
- Tell your children about the risk of gun injury when they are in the homes of their friends.
- Speak with the parents of your children's friends to find out if they keep a gun at home.
- If they do, urge them to empty it out and lock it up.

## Childproofing

- Your child is naturally curious about his surroundings, and does not always realize the danger associated with touching an electrical outlet, or playing near a hot oven. Childproofing your home is one of the best ways to avoid accidental injuries, but it is important to remember that nothing is as effective as your own supervision. Install hardware-mounted secure safety

gates at the top and bottom of any stairways in your home. Consider using doorknob protectors on any doors that open into a stairway to prevent fall-related injuries.

- Make sure that the gaps between the upright posts on railings are not more than 4 inches apart. If they are, cover the railing with a fine, heavyweight netting so a child cannot become caught between the rails.

- Make certain that the doors to walk-in closets and pantries can be opened from the inside as well as the outside.

- Secure rugs with nonskid pads or heavy pieces of furniture. Children could easily slip and bruise themselves on unsecured rugs.

- Avoid thick pile carpeting, if at all possible. Small objects, such as buttons and sewing needles, can hide within the pile, easily finding their way to your child's mouth. Opt for tightly woven, flat-weave, or low-pile carpeting.

- Always keep a fire extinguisher in an easy-to-reach location, and know how to properly use it.

- Install outlet covers, outlet plugs, and plug locks on all outlets and cords that are not currently in use.

- Always unplug appliances when they are not in use. If it is an appliance that you are unable to unplug, such as a garbage disposal, consider using a switch lock. You are still able to use the appliance, but your child is protected from accidentally turning it on.

- Use cord shorteners to minimize the length of your appliance cords.

- Always turn handles to the center of the stove so children are unable to pull pots and pans on top of themselves. Use stove knob covers and oven locks to prevent burns.

- Put safety locks and latches on all cupboards and drawers.

- Install a childproof lock on your medicine cabinet.

- Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees to prevent burns, and install grab bars and non-slip surfaces in tubs and showers to prevent falls.

- Never leave your child unattended in the bathtub.

- Eliminate the loop in two-corded blinds and shades, and install a cord tie-down device to prevent strangulation.

- Make sure that crib bars are no more than 2-3/8 inches apart, and that decorative cutouts are small enough to keep baby's head from becoming trapped.

- Find a mattress that fits well enough to leave no more than the width of two fingers between it and the sides of the crib.

## **Bicycle Theft**

- Most bicycles are easily stolen because they have little or no protection. The best way to protect your bicycle is with a strong, reliable U-lock, or an adjustable bike lock. The more time and trouble it takes a thief to steal your bike, the less likely the chances are of your bicycle being stolen. Lock your bike, even at home, to a fixed immovable object. Do not lock your bike to items that can easily be cut, broken, or removed.

- Lock your bike in visible, well-lit areas.

- Select a location where there are other bikes. If there is a bike nearby with a less secure lock, or no lock at all, the thief will target that bicycle first.

- Position your bike frame and wheels so that there is little to no space available for a thief to insert a pry bar.

- If the U-lock has a keyway, position the key-

way downward, making it harder for the thief to access your lock.

- Secure your accessories and components.
- If you have a multi-speed bike, leave it in the highest gear, making it harder for the thief to shift quickly and escape with your bike.
- Register your bike with the local police station or the National Bike Registry.
- Never lock your bike to itself. You are allowing a thief to carry your whole bike away effortlessly.
- Never lock your bike to anything posted as illegal. Check with your local police department for local bicycle parking regulations.

### *When you ride:*

- Always wear a helmet.
- Learn to use and obey traffic signals. They were created for your protection.
- Ride with the traffic, not against it.
- If you ride at night, use reflectors or lighting systems. Make sure that you are visible at all times!
- Watch for cars and opening doors in your path.
- Slow down at intersections and look out for oncoming and turning traffic.
- Do not weave in and out of slow moving or stopped

Sources:  
JM Associates, Security and Crime Prevention Training/Consulting

The National Consumer Product Safety Commission

The American Academy of Pediatrics

The Insurance Bureau of Canada