

Home Security Highlights

*Tips around your home/property for
burglary prevention and Crime Prevention
Through Environmental Design.*

*Presented by 5th Precinct Crime Prevention
Minneapolis Police Department*

In most cases home burglary is a crime of opportunity committed by amateurs. Residents can minimize their vulnerability to opportunistic burglars by reducing and even eliminating opportunity.

Enhancing security is much easier than you think. Investing a little time and money now by taking preventive steps can save thousands of dollars in the long run.



Crime Triangle

All three elements must exist for a crime to occur

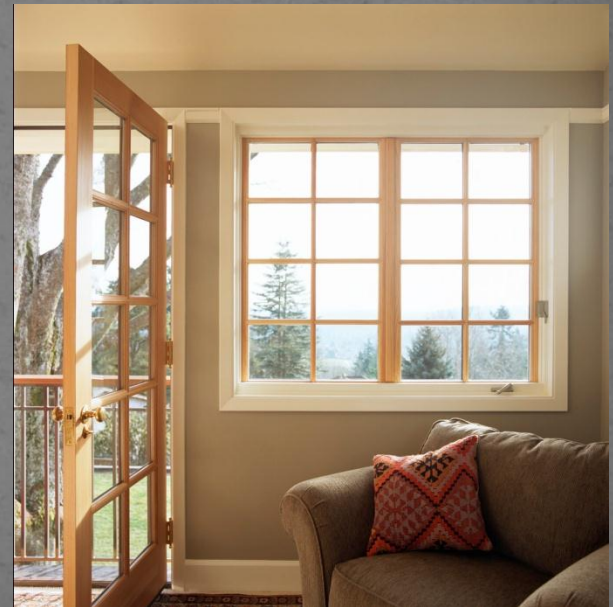


Desire + Ability – only the criminal can affect
Opportunity- you have a say!

Sources of Opportunity

Where does opportunity come from?

- Open, unlocked, or poorly secured doors and windows (vehicles, garages, homes, etc)
- Poorly secured or unsecured items like bicycles
- Visible valuables
- Unwatched or poorly lit areas with poor natural surveillance
- Overgrown shrubs and trees with poor natural surveillance
- Places where criminals know no one will watch or call on suspicious activity



Common MOs

- Spring/summertime: open windows are easily compromised by slitting the screens, pushing open the window, and entering the home.
- Most residential burglaries occur during the day.
- Most garage burglaries occur overnight.
- Most burglaries are a crime of opportunity.
- Most burglars do NOT want to confront anyone. They will often NOT enter if they think someone is home, or flee as soon as they realize someone is.
- Home invasions, as seen on TV, are *very* rare.

Perimeter Barriers

Fences

- Types of Fences:
 - Chain Link/open fences
 - Wrought Iron
 - Wooden Plank
 - Stockade
 - Brick/Masonry



NOTE: solid fences (privacy fences) are not ideal for home security safety. They provide hiding spots and do not allow for natural surveillance.

Perimeter Barriers

Landscaping and Shrubbery

- Shrubs should be 18-24" away from all entry points
- Hedges should be cut 6" below windows and separated
- Hedges and shrubs should be trimmed down to ~ 3ft
- Tree canopies should be trimmed up to ~7ft from the ground
- Place thorny plants along fence lines and under windows
- To increase security in egress windows use prickly (hostile) plants inside the window well. Check your local landscaper for ideas.



Perimeter Barriers

Lighting –

- Keep all entry points well lit after dark (even side doors) – dusk-till-dawn
- Use covered lights to avoid glare and not allow light bulbs to be unscrewed
- Use motion sensor lights in areas where continuous lighting is unnecessary but where lighting is beneficial when activity (positive/negative) is occurring
- Tell your neighbors if you want them to call 911 on motion detection.
- Have visible house numbers
- Use low-level lighting rather than one large, bright source (twinkle lights)



Too bright!



Perimeter Barriers *Lighting*

For residential areas, the two most often seen issues are not enough light, or too much light/glare. Shielded lights are best.



Three things to notice in these pictures:

- 1) The glare on the house and streetlight make it hard to see anything. The house cannot be seen fully in the right picture.
- 2) When the foliage covers the house light, the streetlight seems brightest. When the house light is seen, the streetlight's intensity seems lower. The brightest light will cause the largest glare.
- 3) In both cases, privacy fences like the one in the lower portion block out any helpful light. It would be very easy for someone to hide and not be seen.

Perimeter Barriers *Lighting*

Do you see the person on the bench beneath the tree?



Light needs to be properly used in order to not cause unnecessary glare to the human eye, to avoid light pollution within a city, and to provide adequate safety or security.

Although this is a park, it is useful to keep in mind for your home or property.

Building Exterior

Windows - popular point of entry for burglaries.

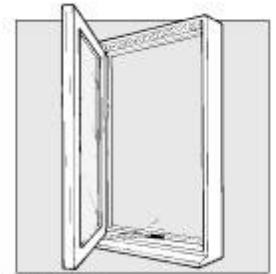
- Any window 18 feet or less above ground should be considered a potential easy access point

Types of Windows:

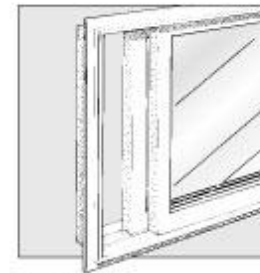
- **Double Hung** (common; push upward; older homes have pulleys)
- **Jalousie/louvered** (slats which tilt open; difficult to secure)
- **Casement** (use crank to open outward)
- **Awning** (like sideways casement; opens outward to allow breeze)
- **Hopper** (opens inward; often in basement)
- **Glass Block/Brick** (often in basements; very secure; allows lighting, ventilation, no opening)
- **Sliding** (slide open like sideways double hung)



Double-hung



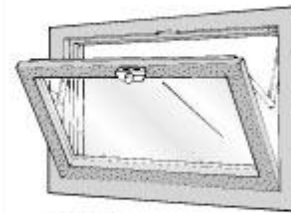
Casement



Sliding



Awning



Hopper



Jalousie

Interior controls

Double Hung Windows

The type of lock used depends on the window. Most homes have double hung windows.

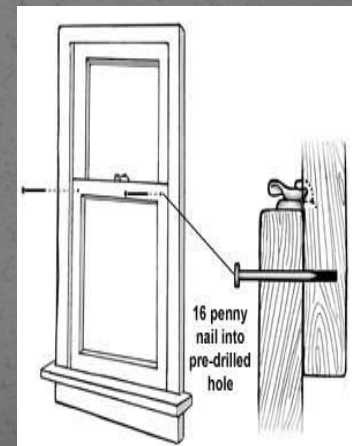
When closed and locked, double hung windows are quite secure.

When opened, it is recommended you pin the window so it can't open more than 6" when you want additional security.

Any pinning option allows for the window to open fully or closed fully by removing the pin or flipping the lock



Pinned double hung window opened 6" for ventilation. This is secure.



pinning a double hung with a nail

Interior controls

Double Hung Window Locks



Shown from top to bottom: window vent stop/brass sash stop, flip lock, and nail for pinning a window.

- There are many inexpensive ways to secure double hung windows.
- Locks are placed in the track or frame. Check directions or ask a professional to learn how.
- Any of these items can be found at your local hardware store.
- Only one lock required per window but two can be used for more security.
- These are important to use in the summer/spring to avoid burglary by a screen being slit and home being entered.

Interior controls *Other Windows and Locks*



*Sliding window closed, locked.
Charley bar and other locks shown.*



*Pinned sliding window opened 6" for ventilation.
This is secure.*



Close up of a lock.



*Open hopper window.
Bars can be used to secure.*



Different versions of glass block/glass brick shown.

Ventilation shown on the right.

Glass block is the most secure window and is a great option for areas of concern in a basement.

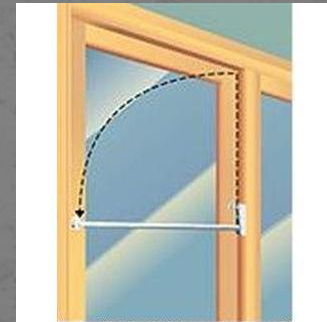
Remember:

It does NOT meet fire code for bedrooms because it does not allow for egress.

Doors

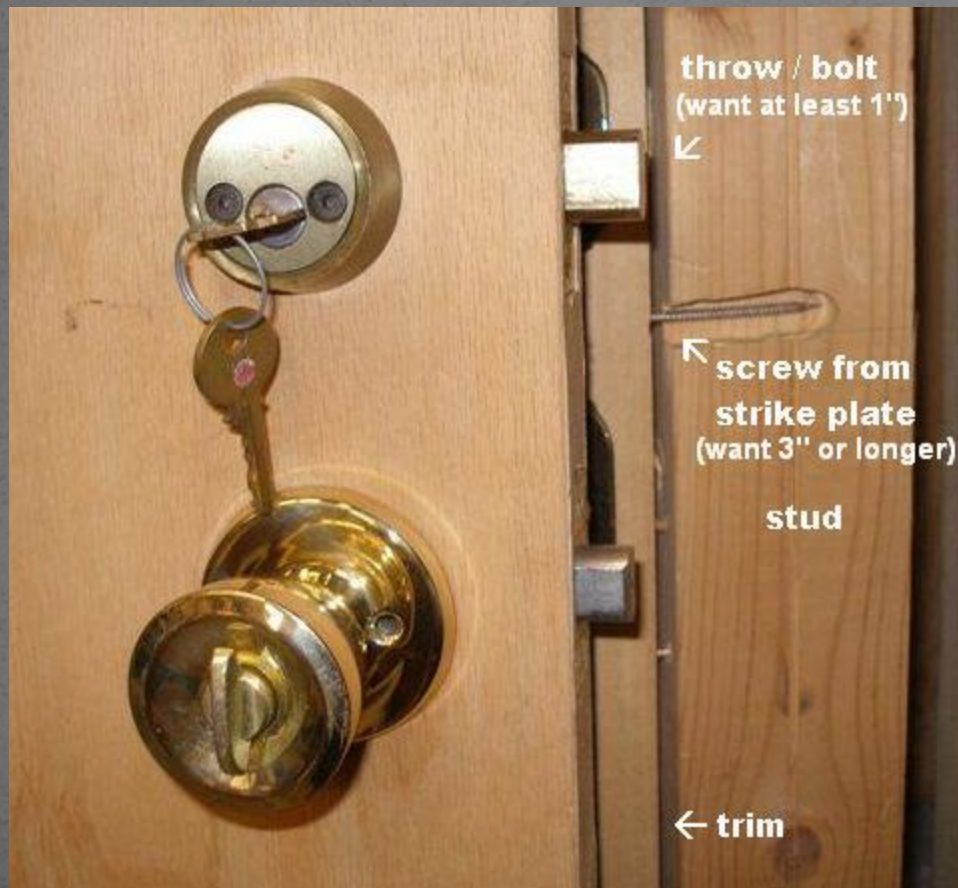
Types:

- Metal - Maximum Security
- Solid Wood - Medium Security
- Hollow Core - No Security
- Frames should be heavy metal
- Hinges should not be exposed
- Outside doors should be solid, not hollow core
- If there are windows within 40" of the lock, consider:
 - double or triple pane windows
 - shatter-resistant window film
 - or double cylinder lock
- Sliding doors should have flathead screws installed in the upper track and a charley bar to prevent the lifting and removal of the door panel.
- To increase the safety of your door, consider a high security strike plate.



Interior controls

Anatomy of a Door -

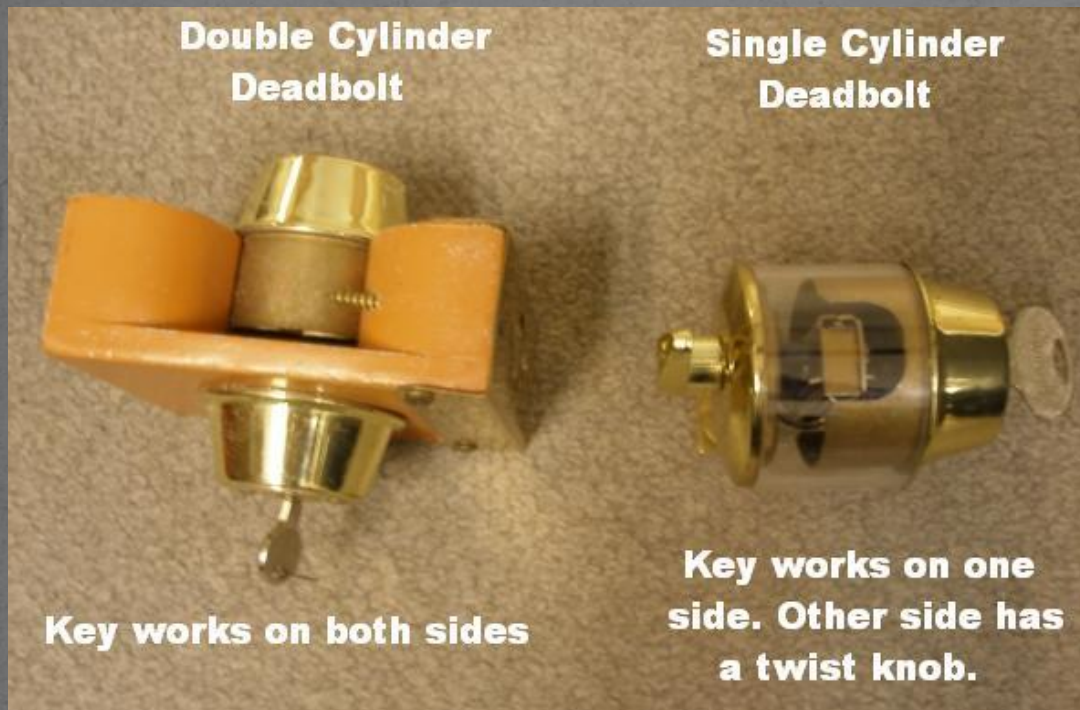


When looking at locks, deadbolts are recommended.

Check to ensure the throw (bolt) is at least 1". Screws on the strike plate should be at least 3" so they go past the gap by the doorframe and extend into the stud.

Interior controls

Double Cylinder vs Single Cylinder Deadbolts



Single cylinder deadbolts are the most common recommended lock.

Pros & Cons of Double:

- For doors with glass, provide extra security so burglar can't reach through broken glass and unlock the door.

- Requiring a key inside can be a safety hazard. In case of fire, it may be difficult to locate the key and could result in serious injury or death.
 - Not recommended for households with pets, children, or elderly residents.

Interior controls *French Doors*

Although beautiful, French doors are the most difficult doors to secure. They are not ideal for access to the outside.

To secure French doors, consider:

- Replacing the deadbolt connecting the doors if it is not secure. Ensure it has at least a 1" throw. Solid steel is ideal.
- Installing surface bolts on the top and bottom of the doors so they can be locked when closed.
- Installing security film on the panes to make them more difficult to break.
- Keeping the area well lit so you/your neighbors notice if someone is loitering. Avoid landscaping with hiding spots.



Example of a surface bolt.

Interior controls

Safes - Keep important documents and valuables in a secure safe or safe deposit box. Bolt it to the floor!

Complete an inventory of all valuables including photos, make, model, and serial number. Your insurance company may have an option to do this on their site. The MPD's Crime Prevention Resources Page has a downloadable form and FAQ.



Questions?

Visit our crime prevention resources website for many more
crime prevention tips and downloads:

www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention

or contact us:

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