



# Neighborhood Watch

## Home Security Checklist

The most common crimes in our community are “crimes of opportunity”, including Burglary of Habitation. You can prevent this by being educated and proactive with the tips and information included in the checklist below (courtesy of the National Crime Prevention Council/NCPC). Consider both daytime and nighttime scenarios and correct any areas where you might be vulnerable.

### Exterior Doors

- ☐ All doors are locked at night and every time you leave the house – even if it is just for a few minutes.
- ☐ Doors are made of solid core construction (solid hardwood or metal clad.)
- ☐ Lock deadbolts have at least a one-inch throw. A high-security strike plate with 3-inch screws is also recommended.
- ☐ All locks are in good repair with sturdy keyed deadbolt lock installed into the frame of all exterior doors.
- ☐ If glass panels are beside or near an exterior door, the key to the deadbolt cannot be accessed if the windows are broken.
- ☐ Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- ☐ Spare keys are not kept under a doormat, or planter or where they can be easily found.
- ☐ Doors fit tight and secure into their frames.
- ☐ Doors (and windows) are visible from the street and to neighbors.
- ☐ Install a video doorbell or other cameras.

### Windows

- ☐ Every window has a working lock or is securely pinned.
- ☐ Valuables are not visible from the street.
- ☐ Windows are always locked or pinned when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.

### **Garage and Sliding Doors**

- ☐ The door leading to the house is of solid core construction.
- ☐ The overhead garage door is locked when leaving the house.
- ☐ The sliding glass door has a strong working key lock.
- ☐ The sliding glass door has a dowel or pin to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off track.
- ☐ Bicycles are always locked and secure with a U-bar or quality padlock. Bicycles can be registered with The Woodlands Fire Department to aid in recovery if stolen or lost.
- ☐ Ladders, grills, lawnmowers, and other valuables are stored in the locked garage or shed.

### **Lighting**

- ☐ Entryways and pathways are well-lit at night.
- ☐ Floodlights are used to ensure effective illumination.
  - ☐ Directional lights must be aimed at your property and should not negatively impact your neighbors.
  - ☐ Consider incorporating motion sensor lighting, if possible.
- ☐ The street is well-lit. If your streetlight is out, please contact your appropriate provider.  
**CenterPoint** – 1-800-332-7143 or “Street Light Outage Reporter” on their website at <https://gis.centerpointenergy.com/sloreporting/>  
**Entergy** – 1-800-368-3749 or “Report a Streetlight Out” on their website at <https://www.myentergy.com/s/reportoutagenow>

### **Other**

- ☐ Know your neighbors! Through The Woodlands Township Neighborhood Watch, you can learn how to make your home more secure, watch out for your neighbors, and how to report suspicious activity to law enforcement. Email [neighbor@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov](mailto:neighbor@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov) to schedule a watch meeting for you and your neighbors.
- ☐ The house number is clearly visible from the street to assist public safety in the event of an emergency. Contact [neighbor@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov](mailto:neighbor@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov) to reserve a paint kit for painting your house number on the curb.
- ☐ The alarms are armed on both the house and cars.
- ☐ Yard signs and/or window decals indicate that your home is monitored with an alarm.
- ☐ Shrubs and landscaping are trimmed to prevent the concealment of burglars.

### **When Away from Home**

- ☐ Mail is held at the post office or will be collected by a trusted neighbor, friend, or family member.
- ☐ Light timers are used to make your home appear occupied.
- ☐ The alarm is set.
- ☐ Sign up for Vacation Watch. Vacation Watch allows law enforcement to check the security of your home while you are away. To register for Vacation Watch visit:  
Montgomery County: [www.mctxsherriff.org](http://www.mctxsherriff.org)  
Harris County: [www.constablepct4.com](http://www.constablepct4.com)

### **Valuables**

- ☐ Keep an up-to-date inventory of your personal property, including serial numbers, in case of theft or loss. Include pictures. Keep this in a safe place.  
*ReportIt* is a free online service that provides a system for maintaining serial numbers, item descriptions, pictures, and scans of receipts so that your items can be easily identified in the event of theft or loss. Visit [www.reportit.leadsonline.com](http://www.reportit.leadsonline.com).
- ☐ Inscribe items such as televisions, stereos, electronics, and other valuables with an identifying number, such as a Texas Driver's License number. Contact [neighbor@thewoodlandtownship-tx.gov](mailto:neighbor@thewoodlandtownship-tx.gov) to reserve an engraver to use to mark your items.
- ☐ Keep valuables stored in a safe or safety deposit box.
- ☐ Keep firearms unloaded, locked in storage, and secured with a trigger guard.

### **Disclaimer**

While every effort has been made to incorporate reasonable means to reduce the opportunities for criminal activities to occur, there is no expressed or implied guarantee that no criminal activity will take place if these suggestions are implemented. The recommendations for improvement are based on safety principles which are widely accepted in law enforcement.

Visit [www.thewoodlandtownship-tx.gov/neighborhoodwatch](http://www.thewoodlandtownship-tx.gov/neighborhoodwatch) for additional information and tips.