

LAUREL SPRINGS SECURITY

HOME SECURITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



To ensure the protection of your number 1 asset; your family and your home it's important that you take an risk assessment of your home to identify any and all weakness. This basic assessment checklist will help you identify and develop a plan to strengthen and harden your home to deter and/or prevent a burglary. This checklist is a good start but cannot make your home 100% burglar-free. The goal is to remove opportunity from a burglar and create a series of deterrents that will help reduce criminal activity on your property. The more difficult you make your home to a burglar, the more likely he will give up and move on.

Use the checklist below to identify any vulnerable areas of your property. Once you have identified the vulnerable areas, make the necessary changes to secure your property.

Residential Perimeter

- Trees and shrubs should be cut/removed from porches, doors, windows, and gates to eliminate hiding places.
- Bushes under windows should be cut below the windowsills to increase visibility. Installing a thorny or prickly bush will make a criminal think twice.
- Tree limbs and branches should be pruned upward at least six feet to prevent someone from climbing and to give a better view of your property.
- Lighting should cover the front, rear, and sides of the house. Motion-sensor that are mounted under the roofline away from immediate access.
- Web based camera are strong deterrent for criminals. Installing rear cameras to cover your rear property, access doors and garage. The infra-red lights displayed on the camera is seen at night and can be discouraging to criminals.
- Fencing has proven to delay criminals, not stop them. Check to be sure your fence is completely intact. Criminals has used privacy fences to hide, sectional fencing allows visibility. All fencing posts and rails should be on the inside of the fence not on the outside which gives criminal support when climbing. All fencing gates should be always secured and consider using a master lock when traveling out of town.
- Display of home alarms and/or video cameras signage is a deterrent to criminals. Adding window/ door decals informing criminals that your house is protected is a strong deterrent. Alarm signage is typically given out by your alarm service provider to place in your front and back yard.

Residential Barriers

- Windows on all levels should remain locked and secured. Consider installing alarm sensors on second floors windows. Criminal typically will bypass windows on the main and basement levels that typically have alarm sensors.
- Secondary window locks installed would provide additional layer of security.
- Older wooden windows can be strengthened simply by just adding a nail in the corner of the window track.

- _____ All exterior doors should be of a solid material, such as wood, metal cased, or fiberglass.
- _____ All exterior doors should be secured by a deadbolt lock.
- _____ Full exterior glass door should have glass break sensor.
- _____ Ensure that you have a quality strike plate on your exterior access doors. You may re-enforce your doors by installing deadbolt strike plates. These strike plates offer the best protection for your exterior doors.
- _____ Home alarm system is a strong deterrent. An alarm system will not 100% prevent a burglary. However, it will notify police upon a detected forced entry, and it will scare a burglar and notify your neighbors with an audible siren. This can be used with home camera systems. An alarm system is an additional security layer for your home.

We hope this checklist has proven to be a useful tool for you to assess the security of your home. If you have any questions about any of the recommendations, or if you would like to schedule a free home security assessment, contact securiyt@laurelspringshoa.com or (770) 844-0175.