

Home Safety

Courtesy of Stan Holt, Batesville Police Department

ALWAYS lock your windows and doors when you are away from your residence - even if you are just stepping out for a quick errand. Most burglars are in and out of a house in less than 3 minutes.

Do not leave spare keys hidden on your property. Most thieves know all the common spots in which they are hidden.

Make sure the exterior doors are solid core wood or metal.

All exterior doors should be equipped with dead bolt locks that have a minimum bolt throw of 1 inch.

If you have a sliding glass door wall use a wooden dowel as a means of bolstering the door lock. Lay the dowel in the track near the bottom of the sliding section. This will prohibit sliding the door open in the event the door lock is compromised.

Use timers on lights and be sure to stagger the pattern of lighting. Light different rooms at different times. Be creative. Get out of the habit of leaving the living room light on, night after night.

Leaving the TV on in a dark room is an excellent idea. Leave the volume up too. The motion of the lighting will throw thieves off. It is no less safe than using table lamps, and just as cost effective.

Install exterior lighting. Make sure it is evenly distributed and does not create deep shadows. Poor lighting can be worse than no lighting. Landscaping lights are functional, as well as decorative, if properly spaced and directed.

Make sure that no bushes or trees obscure windows or doors. Overgrown landscaping can provide excellent coverage for intruders.

Engrave and list all your valuables. Photos are a good idea to keep inventory of property. Video is even better.

If you find your house has been burglarized, DO NOT enter until the police have secured the premises.