Your Actions Can Stop a Thief

Make Sure You:

- Take extra precautions when you are on vacation.
  - Make your home look like someone is at home.
  - Have a friend or neighbor pick up mail and newspapers daily and put out garbage on trash day.
  - Put lights on timers.

- Put away machinery, ladders, and tools.
  - Do not leave any items where they could be stolen.
  - Or used to gain entry to your home.

- Do not automatically open the door when someone knocks.
  - Use your peephole
  - Ask to see identification before you open your door.

There is a lot you can do to protect your home from crime -
And give yourself some peace of mind.

Stop intruders before they get started.
Take steps to protect your home.
Most intruders seek easy targets.
- They want to get in quickly, quietly and unseen.
- The harder you make it for them, the lower your risk of a break-in.

Effective home security doesn’t have to be costly
- Common sense and a bit of time and energy go a long way

Home security starts at the door and windows.
Always keep your doors locked — even when you are at home

Install sturdy doors, door frames and hardware.
- Solid wood or steel-reinforced doors offer more protection than hollow-core wooden doors.

Use deadbolt locks
- They can not be “popped” like spring-latch locks can.
- Chain locks offer little protection and give a false sense of security.

Install a peep hole.
- Always know who is on the other side of your door before you open it. Do not rely on a chain.

Secure sliding glass doors.
- Place a broomstick or steel rod in the track or drill a hole through the upper part of the slider and track and insert an easily removable nail, bolt or screw

Install key locks
- On window sashes. Ensure that standard window locks close properly and are firmly attached.

Consider window pegs.
- Drill a hole at a downward angle where the sashes overlap and insert an easily removable nail or peg.

Install metal grates or grilles
- On cellar and ground-level windows. Ensure they have inside release levers.

Secure air conditioners
- To the window with brackets and screws. Lock the window in place.

Use lighting and landscaping

Position outdoor lighting carefully.
- Place lights out of reach so bulbs can not be easily broken.
- Aim lights at garage doors, entryways and ground-level windows.

Consider different types of lights.
- Motion sensor floodlights turn on when movement is detected.
- Photoelectric lights automatically turn on at dusk and off at dawn.

Keep plants trimmed
- Overgrown bushes can cover windows and doorways giving burglars a hiding place.
- Prune trees with limbs that could provide easy assess to upper floors.

Consider an alarm system.

Shop around and ask for an explanation regarding:
- What parts of the property are monitored?
- Is the system connected to a local law-enforcement agency or a monitoring company.
- Does it have a backup power source.
- Talk to other customers about their systems and experience with the company.