

Home Security Audit

A room-by-room assessment of your home's protection layers

Most home security isn't about expensive systems — it's about eliminating easy opportunities. Walk through your home with this checklist to identify vulnerabilities and simple fixes.

Exterior & Entry Points

Front Entry

- Solid core or metal door (not hollow)
- Deadbolt with 1-inch throw minimum
- Strike plate secured with 3-inch screws into frame
- Peephole or video doorbell installed
- Adequate lighting — no dark shadows at entrance
- House numbers visible from street (for emergency response)

Other Doors

- Back/side doors have same security as front (deadbolt, solid core)
- Sliding doors have security bar or pin in track
- Garage door closes fully and locks automatically
- Door from garage to house has deadbolt (often overlooked)

Windows

- All ground-floor windows have working locks
- Sliding windows have pins or bars preventing opening
- Basement windows secured or have window well covers
- No easy access points (ladders, trees, furniture) to upper windows
- Considered: window film for glass-break resistance

Lighting

- Motion-sensor lights at all entry points
- No dark areas along pathways or sides of house
- Timer or smart lights to simulate presence when away

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- Exterior lights on separate switch (can't be turned off from outside)

Criminals prefer darkness. Light is one of the cheapest, most effective deterrents.

Inside the Home

Safe Room / Bedroom

- Identified a "safe room" — usually master bedroom
- Safe room door has lock (interior lock or upgraded)
- Phone charger in safe room (to call 911)
- Flashlight accessible in safe room
- If applicable: firearm stored securely but accessibly in safe room

Valuables & Information

- Important documents in fireproof safe or safety deposit box
- Laptop/devices password protected
- Mail with personal info shredded before disposal
- No spare key hidden outside (burglars know all the spots)

Systems & Technology

- Smoke/CO detectors on every floor (tested monthly)
- Fire extinguisher accessible and not expired
- Alarm system installed (or considered: DIY options like Ring, SimpliSafe)
- Security cameras at entry points (even fake ones deter)
- WiFi network secured with strong password
- Smart home devices reviewed for security vulnerabilities

Habits & Procedures

- Doors locked even when home (not just at night)
- Garage door closed — every time
- Don't advertise absence on social media
- Package delivery instructions to avoid porch visibility
- Spare key with trusted neighbor, not hidden outside
- Family has a plan: what to do if someone breaks in

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The best security system is useless if you don't arm it. Habits matter more than hardware.

If You Rent

- Requested landlord upgrade locks (or got permission to do it yourself)
- Added portable door reinforcement (security bar, door jammer)
- Window locks/pins that don't require permanent installation
- Renter's insurance covers theft and damage

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