

NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

HOME SECURITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST



An important step in preventing home burglary and other crimes is to make sure that a residence is as secure as possible. A careful inspection by someone trained to observe security precautions can indicate features which would make entry easy — or difficult — for a prospective burglar.

Chances are good that home security can be improved. Take a hard look at entry points in your residence and determine what steps can reduce vulnerability.

A security inspection begins at the front door and goes on to include side and rear doors, windows, locks, lights, and landscaping. Checks in the orange column of this checklist indicate security weaknesses or hazards that require attention.

This survey may be used by law enforcement professionals or others trained in crime prevention. Neither the inspector, the local law enforcement agency, nor NSA have any liability to you other than to use our best judgment in this inspection and these recommendations.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to you in the community's fight against crime. We urge you not only to take steps to make your own residence safer, but also to become active in a Neighborhood Watch program for the benefit of your entire community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY CALL:

--

This form was produced and distributed by
THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
in cooperation with your
local law enforcement agency

FRONT ENTRANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 2. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 3. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 4. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 5. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 6. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 7. If there are no windows in door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercom device? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 8. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at doorway? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 9. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 10. Is exterior or front entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt light? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 11. Can front entrance be observed from street or public areas? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 12. Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from street or public areas? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |

SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 13. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 14. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 15. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 16. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 17. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 18. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |

SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 19. Can the lock mechanism be reached from outside through a delivery port or pet entrance? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 20. Is the exterior of the doorway lighted by at least a 40-watt bulb? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 21. Is doorway concealed from street or neighbors view by porch, fence, or landscaping? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 22. Does doorway have screen or storm door with adequate lock? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 23. If door is sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 24. Is a "charley-bar" or key-operated lock used on sliding glass door? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |

ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 25. Are all entrances to living quarters from garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 26. Does door from garage to living quarters have locks adequate for exterior entrance? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 27. Does door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from living quarters side? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |

GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 28. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 29. Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 30. Do any windows open onto areas that offer special risk to burglary? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 31. If so, do these windows have security screens or grills? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 32. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 33. Is exterior adequately lighted at all window areas? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |

UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS

RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 34. Do any upper floor windows open onto porch or garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 35. If so, are they secured as adequately as if they were at ground level? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 36. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 37. Are ladders kept outside the house where they are accessible? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |

BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 38. Is there a door from outside to the basement? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 39. If so, is that door adequately secured for an exterior door? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 40. Is outside basement entrance lighted by exterior light of at least 40 watts? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 41. Is outside basement door concealed from street or neighbors? | No ☐ | Yes ☐ |
| 42. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |

GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 43. Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 44. Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 45. Are garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 46. Is outside utility entrance to garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 47. Are tools, ladders and other equipment kept in garage? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |
| 48. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-watt bulb? | Yes ☐ | No ☐ |