

#### DISCLAIMER

You may request the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) to send an e-mail with information and recommendations of changes that may improve the property's security. KCSO uses a form which is intended to point out areas where improvements may be beneficial. The recommendations are designed to make your residence more secure from an unauthorized entry.

The recommendations suggested have been made in good faith. There is no guarantee, implied or stated, that by implementing any of the recommendations you will not become the victim of a crime or theft, but the recommendations may reduce your risk.

This is a free service offered by the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. You are free to use any of the ideas we suggest, but the County, Sheriff, and Deputies, other Employees and Volunteers are not liable for the results of your independent decision to implement any of these ideas.

If you would like an in-person evaluation, please call the Community Resource Unit at .360-271-5809

GRI. RM

# **RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION**

- Burglary victims often feel vulnerable and violated when their personal space has been invaded. Statistically, residential burglaries, occur during the day while families are out working, shopping, or at school.
- The most common entry technique is to kick in a rear door; forcing the wooden jamb to give way. Common household tools such as; hammers, screwdrivers, pry bars and pliers may be utilized to gain entry into your home as well.
- Vehicle prowls occur during the night. Do not leave anything of value in your vehicle.

15'4 x10'0

- Unfortunately, it is hard to catch burglars in the act and harder still to catch them after the fact. While
  residential burglaries seem random in nature, there is a simple selection process used by burglars. A residence
  can become a prime target due to the following:
- Non occupied
- Easy access
- Concealed access
- Quick escape routes
- Indications that no one is home- uncollected mail, newspapers, trash bins
- Once inside a residence, burglars look for small, expensive items that are easily traded for drugs or pawned for cash. Favorite items include:
- Cash
- Jewelry, Watches
- Laptops

- Game Consoles
- DVD Disks
- Guns
- Small Electronic Devices

Protect your property and make your home less susceptible to becoming a target with the following actions:

- Make illegal entry more difficult. . Make illegal entry riskier. Make illegal entry less rewarding. Provide early warning of illegal entry or attempted entry. GRT. RM. **1. BRIGHT IDEAS:** Ways to Discourage Burglars! Install lights at all exterior doors. Use lights at night. Install outside light fixtures where bulbs are not easily accessible. Illuminate house numbers for quick emergency service response. Trim shrubs back from doors and windows. CAR GARAGE NOTE: Do not give a burglar a place to hide! Foil A Burglary Attempt With LIGHTING! Indoor lights Appearance of an occupied home results in it being a less likely target.
  - Leaving a "light on" while away is okay, but putting several "lights" on timers and having them turn on and off as if you were home is better.
  - Supplement your lights with a radio or television timed to your normal listening habits.
  - Exterior lights
    - Exterior lights pose an unmistakable deterrent to thieves.

• Eliminate darkness or shadows with proper lighting across your property to keep this deterrent in place.

NOTE: Survey your property from inside and outside your home for areas that support darkness and shadows.

#### **Lighting Hardware**



- **BULB FROM BEING UNSCREWED?**
- \_\_\_\_ ARE HOUSE NUMBERS ILLUMINATED FOR QUICK EMERGENCY SERVICE RESPONSE?

- \_\_\_\_ ARE SHRUBS TRIMMED BACK FROM DOORS AND WINDOWS?
- \_\_\_\_ WHEN YOU ARE AWAY FROM HOME, DO YOU USE TIMERS ON THE INTERIOR LIGHTS TO MAKE IT APPEAR YOU ARE HOME?

**DO YOU SUPPLEMENT YOUR LIGHTING WITH A RADIO OR TV TIMED TO YOUR NORMAL LISTENING HABITS?** 

\_\_\_\_ DO YOU ELIMINATE DARKNESS AND SHADOWS ACROSS YOUR PROPERTY TO DETER BURGLARS?

**\_\_\_\_** CAN YOU APPROACH YOU'RE HOME IN A WAY THAT KEEPS YOU IN DARKNESS OR SHADOW?

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## 2. VEHICLE SMARTS

**Vehicle Protection** 

- When parking in the driveway, park close the garage door.
- Garage windows should have coverings.
- Hide garage door opener from open view in your car or take it with you.
- Leave only the ignition key with parking lot attendants.
  - When parking in the driveway, think about installing a motion sensing light to illuminate the vehicle as someone approaches.
- Remove all valuables from the vehicle.
  - Leave all vehicle doors unlocked after removing all valuables and vehicle registration from the vehicle to prevent glass damage.

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## **2. VEHICLE SMARTS:**

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DO YOU REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM THE VEHICLE AND LOCK EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE?

DO YOU KEEP YOUR GARAGE DOOR CLOSED AT ALL TIMES?

DO YOU COVER WINDOWS IN THE GARAGE SO OTHERS CAN'T SEE IN?

DO YOU KEEP THE GARAGE DOOR OPENER OUT OF PLAIN VIEW IN YOUR VEHICLE?

DO YOU LEAVE ONLY THE IGNITION KEY WHEN VALET PARKING?

\_\_\_\_\_ WHEN PARKING IN THE DRIVEWAY AT NIGHT, DO YOU USE A MOTION SENSOR LIGHT TO DISCOURAGE CAR PROWL.

# **3. DOORS AND WINDOWS**

#### **Door and Window Tips**

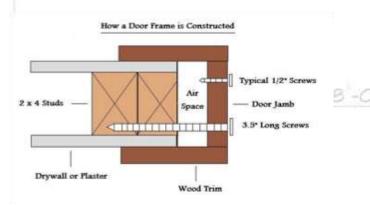
- Install four-screw strike plates with three or four-inch screws to penetrate the wood door frame.
- Add auxiliary track-type locks, Charlie Bars, removable drop bars, wooden dowels, cam locks, pinning devices for windows and all sliding glass doors. (Note: Check that you do not damage the window.)

2 CAR GARAGE

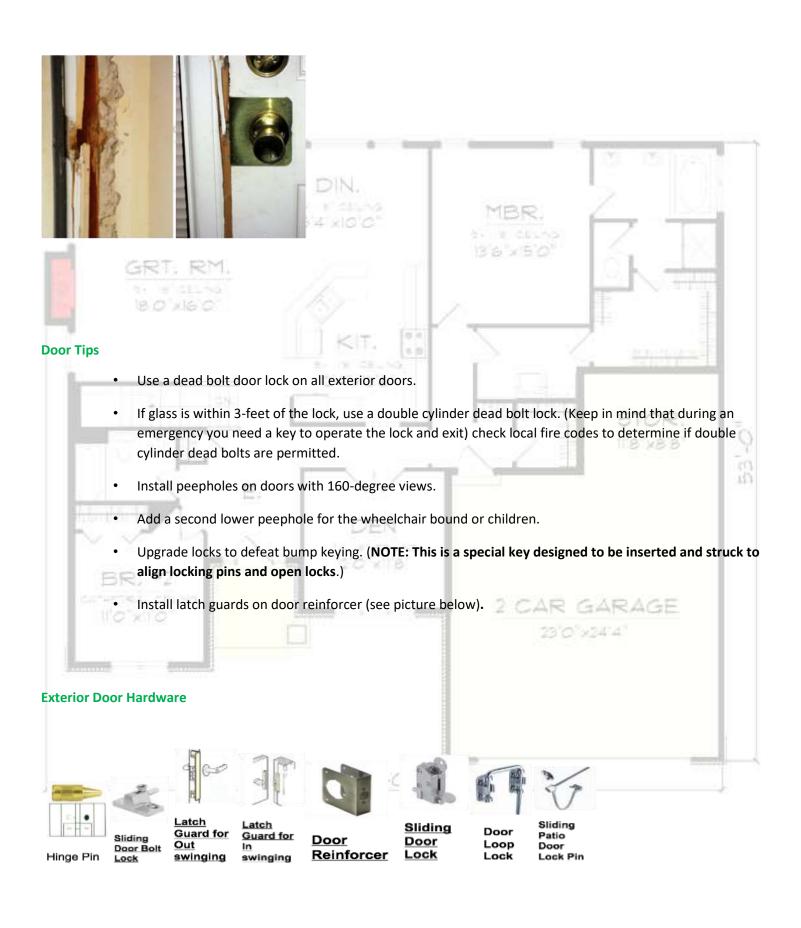
23'0%;24'4"

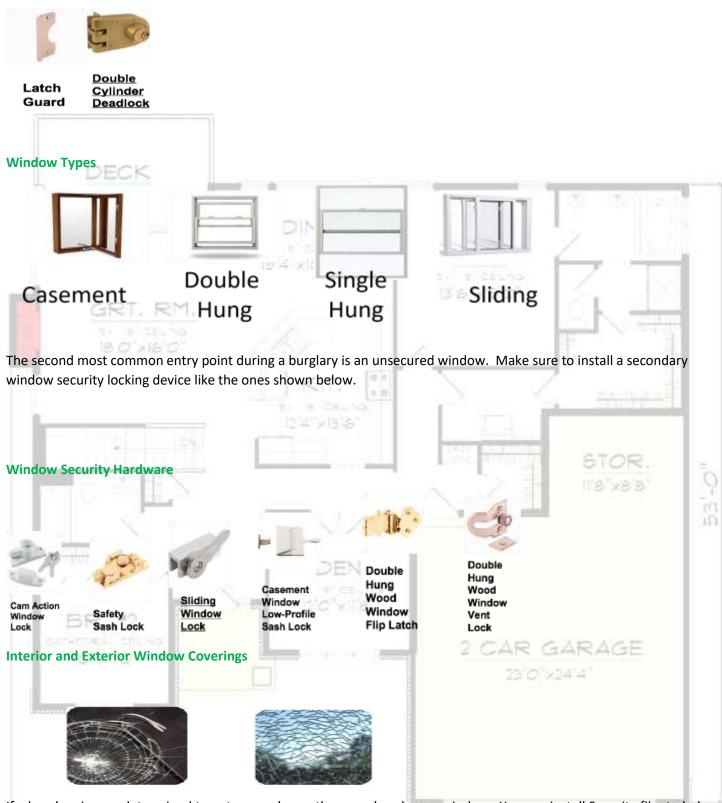
- When moving into a new residence change the locks as soon as possible.
- Always lock your doors and windows whether you are at home or away.
- If required give your neighbor a spare key. (NOTE: Do not hide a spare key outside.)
  - Use solid core or metal clad exterior doors.

#### Anatomy of a Door Frame



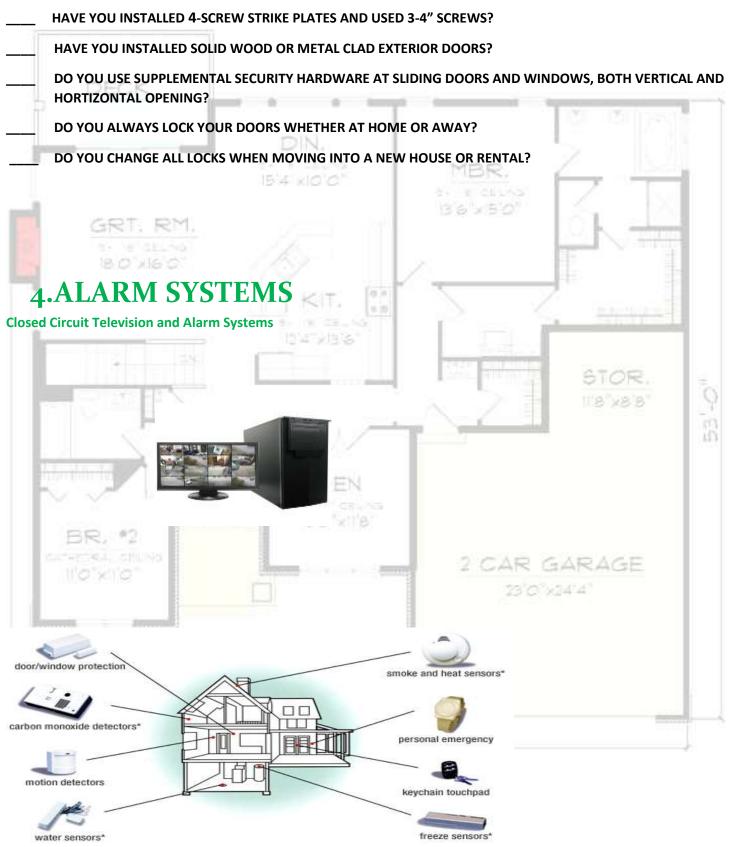
#### **Typical Door Kick Example**





If a burglary is very determined to enter your home they may break your window. You can install Security film to help prevent this. Security film is a colorless laminate that goes on your window to help prevent shattering. However it can only be installed on smooth glass and is less effective on small windows like the ones in a French door.

## 3. DOORS & WINDOW:



\*optional upgrades

At the more expensive end of the security hardware spectrum we find alarm systems and closed circuit cameras. Initial cost plus a monthly monitoring fee can be up to \$45+/month with Wireless backup text. Security systems now work with your smartphones and can provide audio and video.

#### **Closed Circuit TV and Alarm Systems with or without smartphone usage**

- Alarm systems (monitored or not) are the best proven way to reduce the risk of burglary.
- Can set up zone alarms.
- Some models of cameras send e-mail or smart phone alerts when camera sees motion so you can see and monitor the location.

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Cons

Pros

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Camera problems: Suspect could wear hoodie to hide from camera or Suspect not recognizable.

#### **Alarm Registration**

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- It is unlawful for any person within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County to have or maintain on their premises an alarm, whether automatic or semiautomatic, unless the alarm is registered with the Sheriff and the registrations fees are paid.
- The registration fee is \$5.00 and an alarm registration form must be filled out and turned into the Sheriff's Office.

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• The alarm ordinance can be viewed using Adobe Reader.

# **5. LANDSCAPING**

#### Landscaping Tips

- Trim tree branches 7-feet off the ground.
- Prune shrubs to under 3-feet from the ground.
- Don't give the bad guys a place to hide.
- Use motion sensors and photocells on exterior floodlights.
- Adjust motion sensors and regularly check for activation and sensitivity for proper function.
- Thorny bushes and trees or similar plants can make an unpleasant barrier.

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- Privacy fences provide the homeowner and the thief privacy.
- High-security fences are not designed for visual appeal.
- Barrier trees and other vegetation can supplement for visual appeal or instead of a fence.

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#### **Property Line Ideas**



These fences and barriers provide both you and thieves privacy.

#### **Prickly Plant Varieties**











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## **6. FOR EMERGENCIES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ IMMEDIATELY DIAL **911** TO REQUEST POLICE, FIRE OR MEDICAL AID. BE PREPARED TO GIVE THE TYPE OF EMERGENCY, LOCATION, AND YOUR NAME.

USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE, IF YOU SEE A SUSPECT AND/OR SUSPECT VEHICE.

# 7. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Keep valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Use a locking mailbox.
- Complete Operation Identification Program. (NOTE: Display the window decals.)

15'4 x10'0

• Shred bills and other papers with personal information and account numbers before throwing them in the trash.

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Use anti-virus software on computers and change your password with a strong string of letters, numbers, symbols

# OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

- Operation Identification is nationally recognized by law enforcement as a citizen prevention program.
- Inventory your marked property on a form with descriptions including brand, model number and <u>serial</u> <u>number</u>.
- Photograph the items and their serial numbers. Keep information in a safe place. Mark property or valuables with an identifying mark, preferably your driver's license with state abbreviation followed by the number: i.e., WA-SMITHRL946P6.
- Display the Operation ID decal on windows (available at your local Sheriff's Office) ONLY AFTER items 1 and 2 have been completed to show your participation in the program and to discourage burglary.

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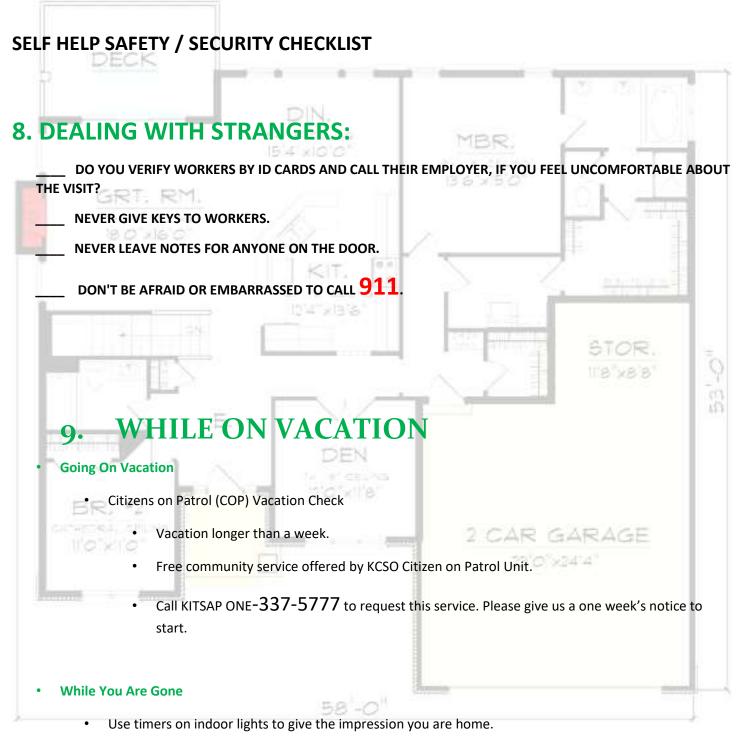
• NOTE: An engraver is available to borrow from the Community Resource Officer

# 7. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

HAVE YOU COMPLETED "OPERATION ID" AND PLACED A DECAL IN A WINDOW AT	THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE?
DO YOU KEEP VALUABLES AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN A SAFETY DEPOSIT E	OX OR HOME SAFE?
DO YOU USE A LOCKING MAILBOX?	
DO YOU SHRED BILLS AND OTHER PAPERS WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION	No. 10 Period
DO YOU RECEIVE YOUR BILLS BY COMPUTER OR REGULAR MAIL?	5 011
DO YOU USE DIRECT DEPOSIT WHENEVER POSSIBLE	
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te of statutes	
<ul> <li><b>B. DEALING WITH STRANGERS</b></li> <li>Verify workers by ID cards.</li> <li>Call their employer, if you feel uncomfortable about the visit.</li> <li>Never give keys to workers.</li> <li>Never leave notes for anyone on the door.</li> <li>Do not be afraid or embarrassed to call 911. There is NO business (non-count</li> </ul>	
1/0'x'/0" 20'0'	GARAGE
INFORMATION to Provide to 911	
	o Description Guide
	a report to the first police officer on
SEX RACE AGE HEIGHT WEIGHT COMPLEXION the scen	
HAIR/LENGTH COLOR HAT (color, type)	
GLASSES (type)	SIDE
TATTOOS/SCARS/MARKS Year	Make

Keep this page handy to easily provide information needed by the Sheriff dispatcher.

The more information you provide the more than likely the bad guy will be apprehended



- Have expected merchandise delivered to a neighbor's house or workplace. (NOTE: Ensure they are aware and agree to accept delivery.)
- Ask neighbors to watch your house while you are gone.

- If possible, hire a House Sitter.
- Stop newspaper service for the vacation duration.
- Stop mail delivery for the vacation duration.
- Ask neighbors to help with your trash bins and flyers.
- Use your residential alarm system.

Ask your neighbor to park a car in your driveway. A house that appears lived in is less of a target

#### When Your Neighbor Is On Vacation

• Do not be afraid or embarrassed to Call 911 if you see any unusual activity around their property.

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23'0'x24'4'

• Remember, there are **NO business (non-emergency) telephone numbers in Kitsap County.** 

### **SELF HELP SAFETY / SECURITY CHECKLIST**

## 9. WHILE ON VACATION:

GRT. RM.

DO YOU USE TIMERS ON INDOOR LIGHTS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE HOME? DO YOU HAVE EXPECTED MERCHANDISE DELIVERED TO A NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE, OR WORKPLACE?

DID YOU ASK NEIGHBORS TO WATCH YOUR HOUSE WHILE YOU ARE GONE?

- \_\_\_\_ HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HIRING A HOUSE SITTER?
  - DID YOU CALL THE NEWSPAPER AND STOP SERVICE FOR THE TIME YOU WILL BE GONE?
- \_\_\_\_ DID YOU ASK NEIGHBORS TO HELP WITH YOUR TRASH BINS AND FLYERS?
- \_\_\_\_ ARE YOU USING YOUR RESIDENTIAL ALARM SYSTEM?
  - HAVE YOU ASKED A NEIGHBOR TO PARK A CAR IN YOUR DRIVEWAY?
  - ARE YOU PREPARED TO WATCH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOME WHEN THEY ARE ON VACATION?

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# YOUR HOME IS YOUR CASTLE SO TAKE CARE OF IT!



# HOME SECURITY / SAFETY SELF-HELP GUIDE COMPLETE

#### WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE

- Installed alarm system of some type unmonitored or monitored with signs and/or decals displayed.
- Installed door striker plates and dead bolts on all exterior doors.
- Installed dowels, Charlie Bar, cam locks for sliding windows and doors.
- Completed Operation ID packet and/or take photographs of each item and their corresponding serial number.
- Keep your vehicle remote near your bedside to set off vehicle alarm if you feel there may be a home intruder.
- Placed a device in the upper track of sliding window or door to prevent lifting and removal.
- Installed dusk to dawn lighting and/or motion sensing lighting.
- Etched property with Owner Applied Numbers.
- Began shredding bills and other documents with information that can be used for Identity Theft or storing and/or storing documents in a secure place.
- Planted barrier plants.
- Cleaned out vehicles of all valuables.
- Started a Neighborhood Watch Program.

#### Help the Sheriff - Help you

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 Provide your thoughts and comments about the program after viewing this Home Security Evaluation D.I.Y. Guide.

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