

SIMPLE STEPS FOR ULTRA-EFFECTIVE HOME SECURITY

Checklist

- ☑ Awareness - situational insight
- ☑ Plan - real-world preparedness tips
- ☑ Decide - know what to do and when
- ☑ Act - put your decisions to work





Simple Steps for Ultra-Effective Home Security Checklist

Simple Steps That Will Have The Most Impact

Your home is your castle. You've heard this statement a hundred times, but what does it **really** mean to you? When most people hear it, they think: "That's right... and that means I'm King of this Castle."

But what exactly are you *king* of? Are you king of a concrete fortress? Or are you king of a fragile glass house? Which would you rather be king of?

It's time to begin treating your home like a defensive structure. Making this change—thinking of your home as a defensive structure instead of a yard ornament, your mind will already begin working to make it a better, safer place. The second step is to amplify your home's natural defenses. Third, you should work to identify your home's weaknesses, and minimize them as much as possible. Lastly, you should work to make your home as unappealing to a robber as possible.

Before you dive into this check-list, I'd like to stress one point with utmost clarity: If it comes to the point where **any** of these check-listed items *do their job* and thwart a potential home robbery or home invasion... you need to understand that all you've done is encouraged the criminal to attack *someone else instead of you*. You must not feel bad about this.

He is a criminal. Your job is not to indoctrinate him with the laws of civilization and to turn him into a productive citizen. Your job is **to keep you and your family safe**. Your job is not to be the neighborhood watch. You pay taxes for that, and ultimately, it's your neighbor's duty to guard his own house.

By fortifying your own home, you'll at least provide the rest of your neighbors with a positive example, and perhaps you'll cause them to take the same measures to prepare their homes.

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Good luck, and may this checklist be the beginning of your efforts to make your home your castle. Remember:

- Begin thinking of and treating your home like a defensive structure.
- Work to amplify your home's natural defenses.
- Work to identify your home's weaknesses, and minimize them as much as possible.
- Work to make your home as unappealing to a robber as possible.

Cheers,
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If you're going to do anything, start here:

- Conduct a 360-degree, top-to-bottom inspection of your home, following the checklist items discussed in our workbook. Give yourself an honest grade, and identify at least three, concrete steps you can take, to make your home more secure. These might include:
 - Remount the strike plates on all of your doors, with 3-inch screws.
 - Replace any plastic locks on your windows with new, metal locks.
 - Apply alarm company stickers to all windows, and a sign near the front and back door.
 - Invest in a motion detector circuit to replace the light at your back door.
 - Encourage the neighbors to your sides and back, to also add motion detector light circuits to their back doors.
 - Trim all shrubs and trees to leave a clear area at least four-feet from your house.
- Put a plan together for your family as a group and as individuals - what you'll do, where you'll go, where you'll meet, etc in the event that you needed to quickly leave your house. Go over this plan and do a rehearsal.
- Make the decision to be more aware of your surroundings when entering your car and arriving at your home. This may be as simple as not being on your phone and observing anyone that is around you during the transition times from getting in and out of your car, and into your home.

After you've done those things, continue here:

- If you don't have a good way to see who is on the other side of your front door, add a locking metal screen door or storm door. This way you can open your front door to see, but will have a small layer of protection that may give you time to close and lock your front door if needed.

- ☑ If you don't already have a burglar alarm, invest in a system that can be connected to an alarm service. Like the agreement you probably have on your cellular phone, alarm companies will typically provide a base system to you at no charge, as long as you're willing to commit to at least a year of monitoring service.
- ☑ Add additional lights to the darkest sides of your home, such as garden-style solar lights.
- ☑ Add a plastic window treatment to each first-floor window, or consider upgrading those windows to high-security casement windows, which have a protective laminate baked directly into the glass.

Ready for more?

- ☑ If you're ready for more, you should consider replacing any door that is not solid core or steel.
- ☑ Consider replacing all door locks with a high-security lock, which defeats criminal's ability to use a "bump key" to pick the lock.

Conclusion

The check-list you just read is extremely simplified in its nature- a one hundred page book could easily be written on each one of these topics. Therefore, if you're unsure of what any of these things mean (ie, Strike Plates), I encourage you to use the internet (via a simple Google search) to investigate.

I challenge you to act fast- within 48 hours, promise yourself and those who *depend on you* to do *something* to improve your home's defenses, or to make your home look like a 'harder' target.

Make your own check-list, and make a plan on when your budget and schedule will allow you to implement the action-items on your list. Remember: If we fail to plan, we plan to fail. It's never too early to begin preparing, and for many, sadly, it's already too late.

Good luck.

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