

# An Garda Síochána



## Crime Prevention Information Sheet



# Home Security Checklist Challenge



Burglars like easy opportunities. If they have to make a lot of noise, spend a lot of time or risk being seen, the chances are they won't bother. A good rule of thumb is the 3 minute delay test. If you can deny entry for 3 minutes or more – chances are the burglars will go elsewhere. Complete this simple home security survey to determine how well your home is secured against burglary. Ignore questions not relevant to your own home.

Remember, every NO answer is a threat to your home security.

<b>Doors and Windows</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1 Are all your external doors properly fitted and equipped with appropriate secure locking systems? (i.e. 5-lever mortice locks for wooden doors, multi-point locking for uPVC doors etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 If you have glass panelled doors – are they reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Have you a wide-angled viewer in your front/main entrance doors or other means of viewing callers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Do you have a door chain / limiter fitted and do you use it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Since moving into your home (where there may have been a previous occupier) have you had the locks changed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Are your spare keys kept with a trusted neighbour and never left under an external mat, flower pot etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Do you lock your external doors when away from home, no matter how short a time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Do you lock the doors out of your view when working in the garden / yard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Have you installed an additional lock (s) to your sliding glass / patio doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Can you close and lock your garage / outhouse doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Are the garage / outhouse doors protected with quality locks or deadbolts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Do you close and lock your garage /outhouse doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Are all your windows secure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Can the window openings be restricted for ventilation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Do you check to see if all windows are secured when you leave your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION ISSUES,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
your local GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER  
or  
visit the Garda website at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)**

### Inside Security

Yes

No

- 1 Do you ask for identification before allowing unknown servicemen / callers into your home?  Yes  No
- 2 Do you avoid leaving cash at home?  Yes  No
- 3 Have you automatic timers on some lights when your house is vacant?  Yes  No
- 4 Does your home always look like someone is at home?  Yes  No
- 5 Have you recorded serial numbers of your valuables?  Yes  No
- 6 Have you, for identification purposes, photographed your valuables especially items for which you have no serial numbers such as jewellery, china, crystal, paintings, antiques etc?  Yes  No
- 7 Are your car / house keys kept in a location not visible from the outside?  Yes  No

### Outside Security

Yes

No

- 1 Is your house number visible from the street?  Yes  No
- 2 Is there sufficient illumination around your home to allow visible inspection of any dark areas around it?  Yes  No
- 3 Is there sufficient external lighting outside every door to illuminate visitors?  Yes  No
- 4 Do neighbours and passers-by have a clear view of your home?  Yes  No
- 5 Have you trimmed all hedges and shrubs so they can't hide a burglar at work on the windows and doors?  Yes  No
- 6 Have you ever walked around your house looking for ways a burglar might be able to get in?  Yes  No
- 7 Do you keep tools or ladders etc. in places inaccessible to potential burglars?  Yes  No
- 8 Are machines, tools and other high value items stored in garages or sheds securely padlocked or chained to prevent removal?  Yes  No
- 9 Is your shed / garage secure?  Yes  No

### Neighbours

Yes

No

- 1 Have you a reliable neighbour whom you can notify of your travel plans and give a key to, with a request for a periodic house check?  Yes  No
- 2 Do you have a neighbour collect your mail or newspapers when you are away or do you avail of Mail minder from An Post?  Yes  No
- 3 Do you have your neighbour park his / her extra car in your driveway when you are away from home?  Yes  No
- 4 Do you arrange to have your lawn mowed?  Yes  No
- 5 Do you notify the Gardaí of prolonged absences from your home?  Yes  No
- 6 Are you a member of a community crime prevention scheme?  Yes  No

### Electronic Security

Yes

No

- 1 Do you have an intruder alarm system or CCTV system fitted and do you use it?  Yes  No
- 2 Do they conform to recognised International standards?  Yes  No
- 3 Is it maintained and serviced annually?  Yes  No
- 4 Do you know how to operate and use your alarm or CCTV system functions?  Yes  No
- 5 Have you considered connecting it to a monitoring centre or your mobile phone?  Yes  No
- 6 Have you appointed a keyholder(s) and will they respond appropriately to an alarm activation?  Yes  No