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.

	Doors and Windows	Yes	No
1	Are all your external doors properly fitted and equipped with appropriate secure locking systems? (A visible secondary lock on an external door is a deterrent. Consider fire safety; Newly fitted locks should be thumb turn/quick release for safe egress. Use a PSA registered locksmith; www.psa.ie .)		
2	If you have glass panelled doors – are they reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered?		
3	Have you a wide-angled viewer in your front/main entrance doors or other means of viewing callers?		
4	Do you have a door chain / limiter fitted and do you use it?		
5	Since moving into your home (where there may have been a previous occupier) have you had the locks changed?		
6	Are your spare keys kept with a trusted neighbour and never left under an external mat, flower pot etc.		
7	Do you lock your external doors when away from home, no matter how short a time?		
8	Do you lock the doors out of your view when working in the garden / yard?		
9	Have you installed an additional lock (s) to your sliding glass / patio doors?		
10	Can you close and lock your garage / outhouse doors?		
11	Are the garage / outhouse doors protected with quality locks or deadbolts?		
12	Do you close and lock your garage /outhouse doors?		
13	Are all your windows secure?		
14	Can the window openings be restricted for ventilation?		
15	Do you check to see if all windows are secured when you leave your home?		



LOCK UP AND LIGHT UP TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME SECURITY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT your local GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER.



visit the Garda website at www.garda.ie

	Inside Security	Yes	No
1	Do you ask for identification before allowing unknown servicemen / callers into your home?		
2	Do you avoid leaving cash at home?		
3	Have you automatic timers on some lights when your house is vacant?		
4	Does your home always look like someone is at home?		
5	Have you recorded serial numbers of your valuables?		
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?		
7	Are your car / house keys kept in a location not visible from the outside?		
	Outside Security	Yes	No
1	Is your house number visible from the street?		
2	Is there sufficient illumination around your home to allow visible inspection of any dark areas around it?		
3	Is there sufficient external lighting outside every door to illuminate visitors?		
4	Do neighbours and passers-by have a clear view of your home?		
5	Have you trimmed all hedges and shrubs so they can't hide a burglar at work on the windows and doors?		
6	Have you ever walked around your house looking for ways a burglar might be able to get in?		
7	Do you keep tools or ladders etc. in places inaccessible to potential burglars?		
8	Are machines, tools and other high value items stored in garages or sheds securely padlocked or chained to prevent removal?		
9	Is your shed / garage secure?		
	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?		
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?		
3	Do you have your neighbour park his / her extra car in your driveway when you are away from home?		
4	Do you arrange to have your lawn mowed?		
5	Do you notify the Gardaí of prolonged absences from your home?		
6	Are you a member of a community crime prevention scheme?		
	Electronic Security	Yes	No
1	Do you have an intruder alarm system or CCTV system fitted and do you use it?		
2	Do they conform to recognised International standards?		
3	Is it maintained and serviced annually?		
4	Do you know how to operate and use your alarm or CCTV system functions?		
5	Have you considered connecting it to a monitoring centre or your mobile phone?(If your phone is out of coverage who will be notified in the event of an alarm)		
6	Have you appointed a keyholder(s) and will they respond appropriately to an alarm activation?		