

Knowing **HOME SECURITY**



A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON HOME SECURITY

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Introductory

When the topic of home security springs to mind, most people seem to think of burglar alarms and little to nothing else.

Alarms can be a great way to protect your home, although they are only a small part of what makes up an effective home security system. Burglar alarms are a key to protecting your home – although there are other things you'll need as well.

Believe it or not, the windows are actually the key to home security. Homes that have poor constructed windows tend to get broken into a lot more than homes with secure and sturdy windows. When you are dealing with your windows, you should make sure that you have tough glass and locks that fit to the windows.

When you are away from home, you should always make sure that your windows are locked. Even though some windows may be hard to reach, you should always lock them. Burglars make a living out of stealing – and they will normally find a way in if they see the opening.

Along with the windows, doors are also known to be a weakness of security around the home. Doors should always be strong and sturdy, complete with tough locks that aren't easy to force open. If you have a spare key, you should be careful where you leave it. Losing your keys can also make you a target, especially if you have anything on your key ring that reveals your home address.

To better protect their homes, most people choose to invest in a home surveillance system. These systems are great for monitoring the home, as they can record video and keep it stored for you to view later. If you travel a lot, a home surveillance system can be an ideal way to keep a check on your home while you're away.

Guard dogs are also common with home security as well. A guard dog can protect your home from burglars, thieves, and other types of trouble. Guard

dogs can be very handy to have around, as most dogs are more than capable of scaring away trouble with their bark. The only downside to guard dogs is the fact that you'll need to train them and ensure that they always have food and water.

Last, but certainly not least are burglar alarms. Burglar alarms can be effective to an extent, although they are primarily good for scaring thieves away. If you put an alarm in a visible location from the outside of the home, most burglars won't even attempt to enter your home.

Even though burglar alarms are great for scaring off thieves – you'll still need to have other areas of your home safe and secure as well to get the most of your home security.

Chapter 1: Information About Home Security

A majority of us that reside in the United States are worried about leaving home while either at work or on vacation.

If the neighborhood is considered to be bad in terms of crime, it may be troublesome going to sleep. A lot of people live in fear of leaving their kids or an old person at home due to the fact that someone could easily break in to their home and harm them. Due to this fear, some may even hide weapons in the house.

Each and every one of these fears that people develop stems from incidents that have happened in the past to others. These days, people are getting more cautious about protecting their loved ones and their homes. Most use burglar alarms, keep their doors locked at all times, never open their doors to strangers, and keep their windows locked. When going out of town, they will inform neighbors that they will be away – and then will invest in a home security system.

Burglars and intruders alike will often keep a watchful eye on any opportunities that present themselves to gain entrance to a home. Thieves do their research well and look for any entry that they can use to enter the home such as doors, windows, skylights, and chimneys.

They will also pay attention to any surveillance systems as well, and do their homework on how to disable or avoid them. If a house is well equipped with alarms, cameras, and motion detectors, a burglar may actually think twice before he attempts to ransack a home.

What many fail to realize is the fact that burglars are smart people. They spend a lot of time planning to rob a home, carefully studying and watching.

Although locking your doors and windows will help to an extent, it normally won't keep a determined burglar out of your home. If a burglar sets his mind to something and has a plan in mind, simply locking your windows and doors isn't enough.

If you have sturdy and strong doors and windows on your home, it will take the burglar extra time to break in. In the process, he can easily get caught due to the high level of noise he will make trying to get into the home. If you have a lot of valuables in your home, you can always invest in a strong fireproof safe to store them in. To protect the exterior of your home you should have always have good lighting in your yard.

Alarms are popular to use as well, as most will go off the second a burglar tries to open a window or a door. They are very popular these days, providing a high level of security for your home.

Alarms and surveillance systems include a variety of detectors, control panels, alarms, and cameras. Although they may cost you a bit of money – the peace of mind and safety of your family is more than worth the investment.

No matter what area you may live in, you can always secure your home. To better secure your home and know what equipment you need, you should always try and understand the frame of mind that burglars use. This way, you'll know what you need to protect your home.

Home security is a common issue these days and for good reason. With crime steadily on the rise – protecting your home, your family, and your belongings becomes more and more important.

Chapter 2: Location Importance And Crime

When looking to buy a house, the location of the house is very important. Most people want to buy a home in a decent neighborhood, as they have the intention to remain at their home for many years to come.

If someone is planning to buy a home strictly for the resale value, then the location will prove to be even more important. The resale factor of a home is very dependent on the location, simply because someone wouldn't want to buy a home that wasn't in a decent neighborhood.

When buying a home, the general rule of thumb is to purchase a home that will appeal to a large number of potential buyers. To do this, you'll need to look at the location of the home. The community is very important, especially in terms of crime.

If you buy a home in a neighborhood that is well known for crime you'll more than likely have difficulty when you try to sell. Bad neighborhoods generally spark little to no interest. These days, people want to buy homes in the best possible neighborhoods that they can afford.

When buying your home, you should always narrow the choices down a few of the best cities around you. You'll want to buy your home in a community that has a very stable economy and plenty of commercial and business districts.

This way, when you decide to sell your house, you can rest assured that your house is in a good selling area. You should also look at the crime statistics for the area as well. If the crime rate is high, you should look into another area.

You should also look into the local school system as well. Even though you may not have kids now, you should always think about the future. A home that is within a short distance to shopping centers and quality schools are always easy to sell.

If you buy a home that is in a bad neighborhood and has poor schools, you'll quickly regret that decision. If you can't afford to purchase a home that is in a good location, you should work on your credit and save up some money until you are able to purchase a home that is in a desirable location.

Although the size of a home is important, the location is one of the most important aspects to buying a home. The location is important for those living in the home as well as the resale value.

A home that is in a desirable location is always easy to sale, for the simple fact that the location speaks for itself. If you've been thinking about buying a home for the resale value – you should always make sure that you pay close attention to the location.

Chapter 3: Preventing Burglary With Adequate Lighting

As business becomes more and more global, and complexities continue to emerge, certain fields have gained prominence in today's career market. One of these is accounting.

As many already know, adequate lighting is a critical part of keeping your home safe. Even though lighting is very important to home safety, a lot of homeowners don't look at their lighting as being an integral aspect of safety.

No matter where you may live, you should always make sure that there is plenty of lighting in place and that the lights are out of reach for those without a ladder.

The lighting that is around the doors of your home is very important, as most burglars like to focus on doors before anything else. When it comes to the doors of your home, any lighting at all is better than no lighting.

If a burglar sees lights around your home, chances are he'll move on. If the lights are off however, the burglar will more than likely proceed as planned.

If you own a garage, you should always use an automatic garage opener. Once they have been activated, most will automatically turn on the lights. Your carport is also important to safety. If you are going to be away from home, you should always make sure that you leave the light on your carport on.

You can also use motion detected lights as well. When these lights detect any type of movement, they will automatically turn on – which could easily startle a burglar.

For the exterior of your home, motion detected lights are the way to go. If you have a large backyard, you should always make sure that you use motion detected lights. To be on the safe side, you can always connect an alarm to the lights. This way if someone was to move through your yard, the lights would sound the alarm. Burglars don't like alarms and they will normally flee the instant they hear an alarm sound.

If you are planning to use motion sensors in your front yard, you should make sure that you have planned the locations carefully. People walking by the sensor or kids playing nearby can easily trigger it.

When you set the motion sensors up you should always make sure that you hook lights up to them as well. This way, those in your family will know where the motion detectors are and they can easily avoid them.

Having the right amount of lighting around your home will go a long way in keeping your family safe. Burglars don't like to be around light, which is why it is so very important.

If you don't have a lot of lights around your home, you should do something about it. It doesn't have to be anything fancy – all you need is enough lighting to make sure that a burglar thinks twice about breaking into your home.

Chapter 4: Vacations And Home Security

Nothing is more stressful, disappointing, or downright sickening than returning home from a hard-earned vacation – only to find that your home had been robbed.

Burglary is a common thing these days, with burglary around the home occurring quite frequently. When you go on a vacation, you shouldn't have to worry about the condition of your home and your things. Your vacation should be relaxing, without having to worry about anything. If you plan ahead before you go on your vacation – you can help to minimize the risks of anything going wrong.

One way to fend off burglars is by hiring a house sitter. A house sitter is one of the best ways to get rid of any type of trouble as well. All you need to do is find someone who will swing by your house a few times a day, check on things, and turn the lights on at night.

If you have animals at your house, you may want to hire a house sitter to care for your animals as well as your home. In most cases, peace of mind is worth any price. If you decide to hire a house sitter, you should always make sure that you choose someone reliable who you can trust while you are away.

In the event that you are unable to get a house sitter, you should strive to make it appear as if someone is living in your home. To be on the safe side, you can have a neighbor whom you trust keep an eye on your home. Whoever you choose to watch your property should have a number to contact you with in case something goes wrong.

You can buy various timers and such that will make it appear as if people are in your home. Radio timers and light timers can go a long way in making criminals believe someone is at your house.

You'll also want to consider your lawn before you leave as well. If the grass is too high, people will wonder if anyone is home. You should always cut it before you leave, and have someone else cut it for you if you are going to be gone for more than a week.

You'll also want someone to pick up your mail as well. If the mail starts to pile up in your box, criminals will know that you aren't home. Even though you may not be on vacation for long, you should always make sure that your door is locked and that you leave the spare key with someone whom you trust who can keep an eye on things for you.

When that individual comes by your home to check on things, they should be sure to turn the lights and television on in the evening. You should also make sure that your trusted person knows to check on the interior of your home, and look for anything out of the ordinary.

If something is wrong, that person shouldn't hesitate to contact the police. A broken window, door, or furniture out of place is the first sign that something is wrong.

Vacations are something we all need to take. Vacations are supposed to be fun and relaxing, with no worries about anything else. If you take the necessary steps before you leave, you shouldn't have anything to worry about. Whether it's a friend or family member stopping by to check on things or a house sitter that you've hired – peace of mind goes a long way in helping you make the most of your very important vacation.

Chapter 5: Basic Knowledge About Home Surveillance

If you are interested in protecting your home with a surveillance system, you should first grasp the concepts of the technology.

There are several home surveillance systems to choose from, making it in your best interest to learn all you can. Most aren't hard to install or monitor providing you have the right guide to assist you.

No matter how hard you may try, it can be nearly impossible to ask the right questions or complete your goals without first finding yourself overwhelmed by possibility. There are many alternatives and "what ifs" to any home surveillance system. Selecting which type is best for you can be a bit easier, if you know what they offer and which one will work the best for you.

Closed circuit television and several other types of electronic devices are much more common these days, and easier to operate than ever before. They are also more affordable as well, and becoming more and more popular with home owners everywhere.

The basics behind closed circuit systems lets you know that the signals the camera picks up aren't broadcast through the air, but instead sent directly to the monitor, which can be observed from virtually anywhere - at any time.

If you learn more of the basic concepts involved with home surveillance systems, you can make more sense of the language when you talk to salesman and others in the trade. If you aren't familiar with any of the technology or systems at hand, you won't know what salesman or others in the trade are talking about when you inquire about your home surveillance system.

Therefore, you should always strive to learn as much as you can about the terms and subjects of home surveillance. It's actually easier than you may think, as long as you keep it simple. Once you have built the foundation, you'll find it easier to learn more.

The first thing to know is that the camera is responsible for all images that are displayed on the monitor or captured. The performance of the camera will vary on the reflected light available on the area that you are surveying, the quality of the components that you are using, and the overall performance of the camera. Some cameras are high quality, while others can be very poor and lack in direction.

Overall quality with a home surveillance system however, will greatly depend on the weakest area of the chain. To get the most from your system, you should always make sure that each and every component is of the same quality. This way, you can get great display images without having to worry about shoddy quality. If you do your research and compare, you can even get great quality at very affordable prices.

When you select the home surveillance system that you will be using, you should always take the time to research and compare. If you understand the basic concepts of home surveillance, you'll have a much easier time of selecting your equipment and components.

To make the best decision possible, you'll need to look at certain areas of home surveillance systems, such as the illumination, lighting, resolution, sensitivity, and the video signal that is sent to the monitor. The quality will vary among the different options you have available, which is why you should always look for the best system that you can afford. This way, you'll have the surveillance protection you need for your home - at a price you can afford.

Chapter 6: Achieving Safety With A Burglar Alarm

Years ago, home burglar alarms were only found with rich homes. These days however, the prices have dropped and they are becoming more common with homes of average folk.

A lot of people who invest in burglar systems go for the do it yourself systems. They can be wired or wireless, setting off an alarm when an intruder attempts to break in or when they are moving around inside of your house.

With home burglar alarms, there are two types - open and closed circuit. Open circuit systems work by setting off an alarm when the circuit closes. When a window or a door is opened, the circuit is immediately completed and the alarm goes off. Closed circuit systems work the opposite way. When a window or door is opened, the circuit is broken - also setting off the alarm.

Another, more sophisticated option, are motion sensors. Motion sensors sense any type of motion within a certain radius to the sensor. Once it has sensed any motion, it sends a signal out to the control panel that will analyze it and see if the movement is considered suspicious. If the movement is indeed considered suspicious, it will react to the way you have it set up and inform the proper authorities or sound the alarm.

Motion sensors can also be adjusted as well. You can adjust them for things such as pets walking around or any other activity that is common with your home that wouldn't signify a burglary taking place. Motion sensor alarms are very common these days, and one of the best ways to keep your home safe from a burglar - and give you peace of mind in knowing that you are protected.

Normally, it's a good idea to use motion sensors and magnetic switches with your burglar alarm setup. Magnetic switches will protect doors and windows while the motion sensors will help to protect larger rooms, such as living rooms and hallways. The combination of the two is never a bad idea - and will go a long way in protecting your home.

Another available option that you have is a security camera. Video cameras are also common these days, and can be mounted in very strategic areas throughout the parameter of your home. They will pick up images in the area they are mounted, which will be displayed on the monitor. You can also record the video to a videotape as well, making it an ideal choice for anyone who wants to keep track of the information that the camera picks up.

You can also get a burglar system from a home security company as well. Most companies monitor their systems remotely, and always have someone in the office to look after the system. Once the alarm is set off, the company will immediately inform the local police or send their own security personnel out to your home. This way, night or day, no matter where you go, your home will always be protected.

Investing in a burglary system of any type is always a smart investment. You have several different to choose from, depending on your needs. If you've been worried about your home and the things you keep inside your home, you should invest in a burglary system. They will help you keep peace of mind, and know that you are protected. They don't cost that much either, which makes them an even better investment. If you own a home - you shouldn't hesitate to invest in a burglary system.

Chapter 7: Guard Dogs And Home Security

These days, home security is simply a must have. Burglaries and crime are always on the rise, which makes it all the more important to protect your home.

There are various burglar alarms and home surveillance systems available, designed to help you protect your home. Although they are good in their own rights, nothing compares to an old-fashioned guard dog. Guard dogs have been used for generations – to help people protect their homes and their belongings.

For many years, guard dogs have helped to scare off burglars and thieves. Although most have gotten used to dogs now days, nothing fends off a thief more than a vicious dog grabbing his ankle and clamping down.

Almost all guard dogs have serious bites and can seriously injure a burglar. Guard dogs are trained to protect one's home – and they will do so no matter what.

When you get a guard dog, you should always make sure that you let him know who is safe to be around your home. You don't want the dog to be vicious towards everyone, as friends and family are certainly allowed to be around your home.

Most guard dogs are left outside of the home, with some deciding to keep them indoors. Indoor dogs are great, as they will instantly catch a burglar the second he decides to break into your home.

If you plan to keep your guard dog indoors, you should always have a supply of food and water available, as he will be there when you aren't. You will also need to give him access to an outdoor area as well, so he can use the bathroom.

A fenced in yard is an ideal place for a guard dog to go outside, as he can come and go as he pleases. Sometimes, a burglar will try and sneak around

the back entrance – which is where giving a guard dog outside access can really come in handy.

Before buying the dog, you should always carefully research the species and where you plan to get your dog from. Police dogs or dogs that have been trained for protection are ideal, as they already know how to defend things. Dobermans and Pit Bulls are great for protection as well, simply because they are well known for being very vicious.

If you carefully research your options and get your guard dog from a reliable source, you shouldn't have much of anything to worry about. You should never get your dog from a lesser known or poor source, as the dog may be poorly trained or not in good health. A guard dog can be a great addition to any home – providing you get a dog in good health and more than capable to fend off burglars.

Chapter 8: Improving Your Security And Privacy

Due to the increase in door-to-door salesman, criminals looking to scope out your residence, and other annoyances, you may sometimes feel that answering your door isn't worth it.

When you do finally answer your door, and find a door-to-door salesman, you may have a very tough time getting rid of them. They will continue to hassle you and keep coming back until you support their group or buy one of their "innovative" products.

To prevent this from happening and keep unwanted company from bothering you, you should use a protective barrier between your door and the street. You don't really need a 15-foot-high electric fence, as even the most basic of fencing will do the trick. You can install a simple decorative fence around your yard, complete with locking gate, to keep any type of solicitors at bay.

Although a fence is a great way to achieve privacy, not everyone has a yard that they can build a fence on. You can also use a gate that blocks entry to your porch or front door, as this way you can keep the gate locked at all times.

The main idea and theory here is to make it difficult to approach the door to your home. This way, salesman, solicitors, and even snoops will see that it requires a lot of effort to reach you - and they will normally just give up and move on.

Even though a fence or locked gate are great, you can't overlook a dog either. A barking dog can be very effective, as trespassers simply can't look over a dog that is barking. Barking dogs aren't the same as a fence or gate, although they are very common these days.

Keep in mind however, that the effectiveness of a dog with scaring off unwanted guests will greatly depend on the disposition and character of the dog you have.

Nearly every dog will bark when it sees a stranger, although not every dog will prevent someone from coming to your door unless it has been trained to do so.

A lot of door-to-door salesman and snoops deal with dogs on a daily basis, and will normally just ignore the dog and the barking and proceed to come to your door. If the dog is more of a violent nature and appears ready to strike, then it will be a different store. If the salesman or snoop notices the dog is ready to bite, he will normally stop in his tracks and turn around - out of the fear of getting bit.

Keep in mind that having a dog doesn't mean that you have to blood train him or put him on steroids to keep unwanted visitors away. What you need, is an aggressive dog that will stand his ground and help you keep your privacy. When a solicitor visits your home, and sees your aggressive dog, he won't want to sacrifice a sale at the risk of getting bit by your dog.

As annoying as door-to-door solicitors are, there are ways that you can improve your security and your privacy around your home. You can also invest in home surveillance systems as well, to further enhance your privacy and security.

For solicitors, fencing with a locked gate is the best way to go, if you have the room for it. On the other hand, if you don't have the space for a fence, you can always use a dog or other options. Privacy and security is very important - which is why you don't want solicitors invading your space.