



Post ALARM SYSTEMS
A Tradition of Service Since 1956

As crime rates rise, you may feel like you are powerless to do anything. The following suggestions come from Post Alarm Systems - Patrol Division. While there are no 100% guarantees, these simple precautions could prevent your becoming another victim of a crime.

1. Lock your doors - house and car

While this may seem obvious, many burglars are able to commit crimes by opening an unlocked door. When you park your car, ensure that the doors are locked.

When you enter or leave your house, lock the door you went through. Many people believe that, because they are home, it is safe to leave doors unlocked. These people are very surprised when they find a burglar has entered their house without their knowledge. Some of these people are also traumatized or hurt when they surprise the burglar in their house.

2. Don't invite crime

- Put your possessions away. When you leave yard tools, children's toys and other valuables in your yard or driveway you are inviting a criminal to a shopping spree. Put things away when you finish with them. Do not leave valuables in plain sight in a car parked on the street. When you get out of your car at night, remove or hide all valuables (GPS, GPS dock, laptop, cell phones, wallets, etc.)
- Close your garage door. Your garage door prevents a criminal from "window shopping" at your house. Otherwise your car and its contents as well as the contents of your garage are at risk. Additionally, an open garage provides access to the door that opens into your house and these doors are usually unlocked.

3. Set your alarm - even when you are home

Some burglars prefer to strike when you are home because many people disarm their system when they are home. Burglars are very afraid of alarms. We have found burglary scenes where the alarm activated and the burglar ran away with nothing **after** gaining access to the residence. Additionally, ensure that the alarm is set when you leave. We have occasionally found burglary scenes where the alarm was in service but not armed because the client forgot, "would only be gone for a moment" or did not know how to operate their alarm.

4. Secure your mailbox

Install a lock on your mailbox. If feasible, upgrade a less secure mailbox to one that is designed with security in mind. Mail theft is an ongoing crime that only takes a couple of seconds but, due to the identity theft implications, the damage can last for years.

5. Install a peephole or camera at your front door

This will allow you to see who is at your door without opening it. This is a great way to prevent prospective burglars from getting a view of the inside of your house as well as preventing home invasion robberies. Burglars and robbers both need to know where in the house you are and to get in. A burglar wants to avoid you, a robber wants to meet you. A peephole or camera allows you to see without being seen and to take precautionary actions. It also helps to discourage door to door solicitors because no one likes to be on the outside talking through a door.

An intercom is another effective means of discouraging crime because it allows you to “pre-screen” visitors before you open the door. It is also an effective way to discourage solicitors since they can’t speak to you face to face.

6. Make sure your porch is lighted

This makes your peephole/camera effective at night. A motion detector light that can also be turned on with a switch is best. It denies a would be criminal knowledge of whether the light turned itself on or you are standing there looking at him.

7. Install motion detector lights around your house and yard

By denying unobserved access to your house to a criminal you make his job more difficult. He can still approach your house, but he no longer has a sense of security. This may cause him to become discouraged and leave. Crime prevention is more psychological than anything else. If you can make your house seem like too great a challenge to a would-be criminal, he will not even try.

8. Security patrol clients call for response when any suspicious person is seen or encountered (including solicitors)

If a person is considering committing a crime in the neighborhood, we are the last people they wish to meet. You may not hear about a crime committed on another block but we might and we will give their description and other information we have about them to the police. They know this and do not wish to be recognized. Encountering us has repeatedly caused criminals to go elsewhere.

9. Subscribe to Post

This may sound like an advertisement, but our clients in the Hollywood Hills have repeatedly been bypassed in the waves of burglaries that occasionally wash over that area. While we obviously have an interest in increased subscribership, experience shows that it is also effective for our clients.

10. Report all crimes to Post

If your neighbor is burglarized we need to know. The police will not communicate with us. If we are aware of crimes in the neighborhood we are able to focus on those types of crimes, the people that commit those types of crimes, as well as the blocks they are occurring on.

These simple steps will help to deter crimes at your residence. If everybody makes their home uninviting to criminals, would-be criminals will feel less welcome in your neighborhood, with a corresponding reduction in crime and increase in neighborhood safety.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (626) 232-9335.

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