



How to Safeguard

Your Home
and Family

 **ALARMS UNLIMITED**
PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SOLUTIONS

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Dear Neighbor,

Drugs... assaults... carjackings... burglaries... rape... murder... fire. You can't turn on the television or open a newspaper these days without being reminded that crime and danger are all around us—and probably always will be.

As good as our local authorities are here in the San Diego area, they are often so overburdened we can't rely on them alone for protection anymore. It's up to us as individuals to take the necessary steps to keep our homes, families and possessions safe. But how?

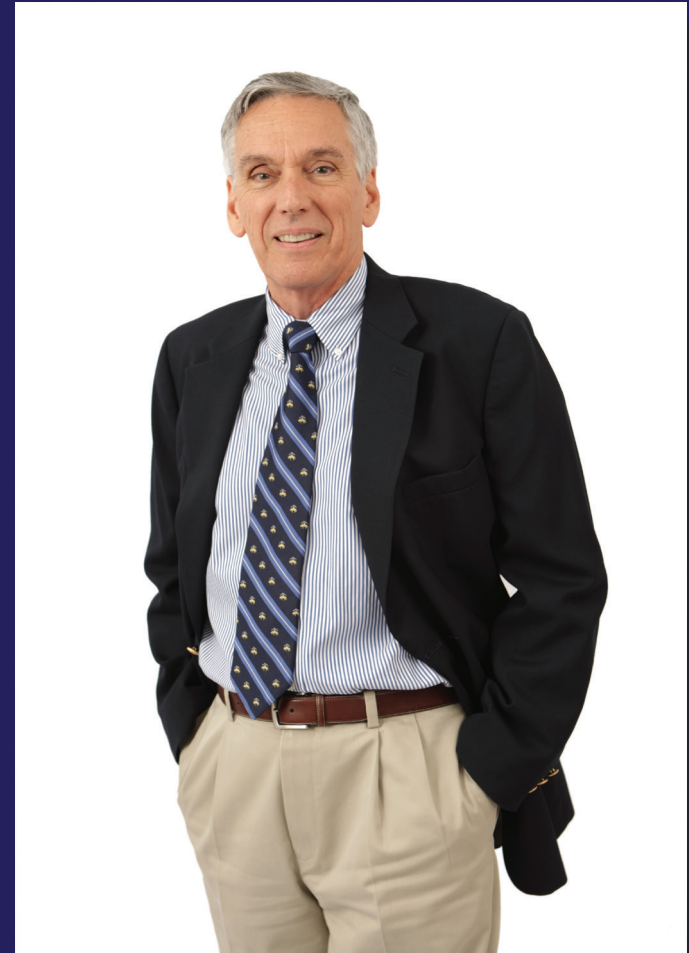
That's where we'd like to help. We've prepared this booklet to arm you with some proven, powerful methods to keep what's important to you safe and secure. We encourage you to spend some time to learn and apply these techniques to protect yourself, home and loved ones. It won't take long, and most of the ideas are very easy to implement.

Remember, a healthy dose of awareness, common sense and knowledge can go a long way toward keeping you and yours safely out of harms way.

Best regards,

Hal Lewis, President
AUI Professional Security Solutions

P. S. If you would like professional advice and assistance in conducting a thorough home security inspection contact us at www.goaui.com/home-security-inspection. We're here to help!



Defending Your Castle



According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, there are 69 burglaries or property crimes in the San Diego area every day.

As tragic as the losses from these crimes are, the real tragedy is that many of them could have been prevented if the victims had taken steps to protect themselves. The fact is, a comprehensive home security program is the best insurance you can have.

By learning how to secure your property and then taking the necessary steps to "defend your castle," you not only protect your property but, more importantly, the ones you love. And the peace-of-mind is priceless.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT BURGLARIES

- The over 2 million burglaries committed in the United States each year account for approximately 18 percent of reported serious crime.
- Two of every three burglaries are committed against homes and families.
- The majority of residential burglaries (60 percent) occur during daylight hours, while non-residential burglaries primarily happen at night.
- Burglary is expensive for its victims. The average loss from burglaries each year is in excess of \$3 billion. The average dollar loss per residential burglary is around \$1,500.
- About 64 percent of all burglaries involve forcing open a door or window to gain entry.

Protecting vulnerable areas of your home and property by means of physical security devices ("hardening the target") is an excellent starting point for reducing the likelihood that your home and family will be victimized.

Remember the three D's of burglary prevention:

DETER

Sound residential security practices, security systems and good locks

are deterrents since they increase the risk of being caught and make the burglar's job more difficult.

DELAY

Delaying a burglar for four minutes is generally considered sufficient to prevent entry into a residential dwelling. A burglar wants to avoid being caught, so the longer it takes to force a door or window, the greater his risk. It is nearly impossible to make a house or apartment impregnable, but it is relatively easy and inexpensive to make forced entry difficult and to delay the burglar.

DETECT

The possibility of detection is increased if you can force a burglar to work where he can be observed. A burglar also wants to avoid drawing attention to himself by making noise, such as breaking glass or smashing doors.

A security system is the surest way to detect a burglar and increase the odds that he will be apprehended. It will also ensure you get help if a criminal confronts you or your family in your home.

By employing the principles of deterrence, delay and detection, you dramatically reduce your odds of becoming a victim.

This booklet is designed to aid you in inspecting your home for security issues. Take time to put your own house in order. Then talk to your neighbors about how you can help each other keep your entire neighborhood safe.

If you want advice or assistance for your own house or for your neighborhood, we are ready to help.

You don't have to be one of the over two million residential burglary victims this year. Remember—crime prevention begins at home.



Securing Doors

HINGED DOORS

The hinged door is the most common door type used in front entries, porches and from garages and basements into the living area of a residence. That makes it especially important to make sure these common points-of-entry for burglars are properly secured.

When evaluating the security of your doors, the door itself, as well as the hinges, locks, and other hardware, must be considered.

DOOR COMPOSITION

Be sure all exterior hinged doors are of solid core construction (1-3/4" thick if made of wood) or metal clad. Hollow-core or composition board doors can be easily kicked in or bored through.



LOCKS FOR HINGED DOORS

The most common lock found in hinged doors is the key-in-the-knob latch lock. If you use this type of lock, be sure it includes a dead-bolt that extends at least one inch into the door frame.

If there are no glass panels in the door itself or within 40 inches of the locking mechanism, doors can be equipped with a single cylinder dead-bolt lock with a one-inch throw. The lock is key-operated from the outside, and is operated from the inside by a thumb turn.

If your door has glass panes or if there are windows within 40 inches of the lock, a double cylinder deadlock is recommended. Double cylinder deadbolt locks are key-operated from both the inside and the outside.

GLASS PANELS

Doors with glass panels may require special treatment such as security

screening or decorative grilles securely mounted using non-removable screws. Another alternative is to reinforce the glass with clear acrylic plastic or polycarbonate sheeting to prevent it from being shattered.



Doors from the garage or the basement into the main living area of the house should be of solid core construction and equipped with secure locks.

For solid panel exterior doors, a peephole viewer is recommended.

SLIDING GLASS DOORS

Sliding glass doors present a major security problem if they do not have the proper locks and steps are not taken to prevent removal of the door. An inexpensive security measure involves placing a dowel in the bottom track to prevent the door from being pried open.

However, a sliding glass door can be lifted from its track by an intruder. To prevent this, insert two or three sheet metal screws into the track above the sliding door. Adjust these screws so that the top of the door barely clears them when it is operated. This will prevent the door from being lifted out of its track from outside.

The best lock for a sliding glass door is a dead-lock, which utilizes a bore pin tumbler cylinder and can be opened with a key from the outside. The lock bolt should engage the strike sufficiently so that it will not be disengaged by any amount of movement.



Securing Windows

DOUBLE HUNG SASH WINDOWS

Double hung sash windows, which operate upward and downward, usually have simple crescent latches which can easily be jimmed. The most effective protection for double hung windows is a key-locking security sash lock. These should be mounted with two-inch or three-inch screws. Storm windows and screens offer some additional protection.



Pinning double hung sash windows provides an inexpensive and effective solution. Pinning can be accomplished by drilling holes at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash, and entering the outside sash. The window can then be secured by inserting nails through the holes which prevent it from being raised.

SLIDING, CASEMENT AND JALOUSIE (LOUVERED) WINDOWS

Protect all of your windows. Remember that second floor and basement windows are as important as first floor windows. Screens and storm windows are always an asset if properly secured.

Sliding windows, either metal or wood frame, should be protected in the same way as sliding doors. Wooden dowels laid in the track and screws set in the track to prevent the window from being lifted out are effective protective measures.

Casement windows generally open and close by means of a gear operating handle and have a locking device which secures the window to the center post. Some protection is offered by removing the crank handle from the opening mechanism when away from home. Do not leave casement windows partially opened as they can then be easily forced.

Jalousie (louvered) windows are a high security risk because individual slats are easily removed to allow access. Jalousie windows should be replaced if possible, or a protective grille or screen should be added.

Securing Your Property

GARAGE

Garage doors are a common means of entry to your house, as well as offering a burglar the opportunity to steal automobiles, tools, bicycles, and other property stored in the garage. Keep your garage door closed and locked.

Do not leave your garage door opener in a car parked in your driveway. Burglars often break into cars to get the remote and gain easy access to your home.

WALKS, DRIVEWAYS & LANDSCAPING

Make sure nothing around your walks or driveways offer concealment opportunities for an intruder. Prune back large trees in close proximity to your home, as they can provide access to upper stories. Remove hiding places where burglars can work by trimming large shrubs and trees, especially those near windows and doors. A well-manicured lawn signals potential criminals that someone is at home and cares.

LIGHTS

Exterior lighting is extremely important in residential security. Each exterior doorway should be lighted to prevent a burglar from concealing his activities. Yards and areas around windows should be lighted to prevent concealment. Yard lights and entrance lights can be equipped with sensors which will turn the light on at dusk and off at dawn. Motion sensor lighting can also be installed that will activate when a person walks past or some other movement takes place.

To give the appearance that you are at home, use an electric timer to turn lamps on in the evening and off at your normal retirement hour.



Home Security Systems

Professionally installed security systems have been shown to be one of the most effective means of deterring criminals. Consider the following:

- A Temple University study found that a home protected by a security system is 2.2 to 3.1 times less likely to be burglarized.
- A Rutgers University study concluded that an increase in security system installations was directly responsible for a decrease in crime.
- A Northeastern University study found that criminals “want to avoid security systems altogether and, upon encountering such devices, abandon all thought of attacking the dwelling.”
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police passed a Board Resolution stating that “professionally installed and monitored security systems are useful instruments to deter crime and provide peace of mind for residential and business owners.”
- Insurance companies provide significant discounts on homeowner’s insurance premiums when a professionally monitored home security system is installed. That’s because they know security systems greatly reduce the odds of break-ins and losses.

Security systems provide two primary levels of protection: exterior (perimeter) protection and interior protection. The ideal security system employs a combination of both that is customized for each specific situation.

PERIMETER PROTECTION

Exterior or perimeter protection devices generally consist of sensing mechanisms attached to doors and windows leading into the home. These devices, which can either be hard-wired or wireless, trigger an audible alarm if a break-in is attempted. At the same time, they send an emergency call for help to a monitoring center.

INTERIOR PROTECTION

It is important to have a method for detecting an intruder if he breaches perimeter security. This is where interior protection comes into play.

One of the most commonly used interior protective devices are motion detectors, which detect body heat or the movement of an intruder. In some situations, pressure mats that react to the pressure of being walked on are used in places where an intruder is likely to go once inside the home.

OTHER SECURITY SYSTEM MEASURES

A professional security consultant can also provide a number of specialized protective measures to meet specific security and safety concerns. For instance, a “panic alarm” can be set up for use by “home alone” children or elderly parents. Look for a security professional who will take the time to fully understand your situation and address your unique needs.



FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Monitored smoke detectors can be easily included in a professional security system installation. Like the security system, a fire system will not only maximize life safety and peace-of-mind—it can also significantly lower your homeowner’s insurance premiums.

Carbon monoxide detection capability is also a wise and cost-effective addition.



Home Security Inspection Checklist

The following checklist was designed to help you conduct a security survey of your own home. The first purpose of a home security inspection is to identify features in and around your home that might make you and your family an easy target for a criminal.

The security inspection should begin at your front door, and include an inspection of all your doors and windows, locks, lights, and landscaping. Each question for which you answer “No” indicates a security weakness or hazard which requires your attention.

If you would like professional advice and assistance in conducting a thorough home security inspection contact us at www.goaui.com/home-security-inspection.

We're here to help!

EXTERIOR DOORS

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Are all outside doors in the house of metal or solid wood construction? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are door frames strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are door hinges protected from removal from the outside? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are windows in or around any door more than 40 inches away from the locks? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are all door locks adequate and in good repair? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are mail slots, delivery ports or pet entrances in doorways a sufficient distance from the locking mechanism? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are all entrances lighted with at least a 40 watt lightbulb? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the porch or landscaping prevent concealment from view from the street or public areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If there is a sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is a “charley-bar,” dowel, or key-operated auxiliary lock used on sliding glass doors? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Home Security Inspection Checklist

ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT

Are all entrances to living quarters from the garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction? Yes No

Does the door from the garage to the living quarters have locks adequate for an exterior entrance? Yes No

Does the door from the basement to the living quarters have an adequate lock operated from the living quarters side? Yes No

WINDOWS

Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? Yes No

Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structures or landscaping? Yes No

Is the exterior adequately lighted at all window areas? Yes No

Are trees and shrubbery trimmed back from upper floor windows? Yes No

BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS

If there is an exterior door into the basement does it meet the security requirements for an exterior door? Yes No

Is the outside basement entrance lighted by an exterior light of at least 40 watts? Yes No

Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance? Yes No

GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS

Is the garage door equipped with an adequate locking device? Yes No

Is the garage door kept closed and locked at all times? Yes No

Are the garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows? Yes No

Are all entrances to the garage lighted on the outside by at least a 40 watt lightbulb? Yes No

Are garage door openers secure and inaccessible to intruders? Yes No

PERSONAL PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY

Does a professionally installed and monitored security system provide exterior and interior protection? Yes No

Do occupants have a way to quickly summon help in an emergency if they can't reach the phone? Yes No

Will authorities be automatically dispatched in the event of a fire? Yes No

Will an audible alarm frighten off an intruder in the event of an attempted break in? Yes No

Will an intruder inside the home be automatically detected? Yes No



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