

**SUMMER** – a time to plan a vacation or to stay home and get to that list of home improvements. Protecting our homes and valuables from theft and our families from intruders is important to all of us. If getting away this summer is a reality for you, look at the home security inspection checklist below before you go. If you are staying close to home and diving into home projects, consider the checklist for ideas to improve your home.

There are three things to remember about preventing a burglary: deterrence, detection, and delay.

- *Deterrence* is the first line of defense – good security practices and good locks are deterrents since they eliminate the easy opportunity for a burglary.
- *Detection* is increased if you can force a burglar to work where he can be observed. Breaking windows, smashing doors draw the attention of the public, including neighbors.
- *Delay* a burglar at least four minutes – that is generally considered sufficient to prevent entry into a residence. A burglar wants to avoid being caught, so make entry difficult.

When you are away:

- Use timers for lights on each floor of your home and for radios or televisions as well
- Make sure that all deliveries are arranged to be picked up by neighbors or friends so that packages, mail, circulars, and newspapers do not collect at the entrance to your home.
- Arrange for lawn care for extended absences – a well-cared for home and lawn provide an effective clue that someone is at home and cares.

Motion sensor lights at the exterior entry points of your home are effective both for illumination and deterrence. “Case” your own house and see if you can get in if locked out. Never “hide” a key anywhere outside your home.

If you have any questions call Mansfield University Police Department at 570-662-4900 or e-mail the Department at [police@mansfield.edu](mailto:police@mansfield.edu)

### Home Security Inspection Checklist

The purpose of a home security inspection is to identify features in your home or the daily routines of you and your family which might make your home an easy target for a burglar. Begin at your front door, and include an inspection of all your doors and windows, locks, lighting, and landscaping.

Evaluate your responses, and any checkmarks in the shaded section indicate a weakness or hazard and deserve your attention.

#### DOORS

1. Are all outside doors in the house metal or solid wood construction?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
2. Are door frames strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
3. Are door hinges protected from removal from the outside?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
4. Are there windows in any door or within 40 inches of the locks?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
5. Are all door locks in good repair?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
6. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
7. Can you reach the locking mechanism through a mail slot, delivery port, or pet entrance?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes

8. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
9. Are all entrances lighted with at least a 40 watt light bulb?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
10. Can the front entrance be observed from the street or public areas?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
11. Does the porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from the street or public areas?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
12. If there is a sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
13. Is a "charley-bar", dowel, or key operated auxiliary lock used on sliding glass doors?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

#### ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT

14. Are all entrances to living quarters from the garage and basement metal or solid wood construction?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
15. Does the door from the garage to the living quarters have locks adequate for an exterior entrance?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
16. Does the door from the basement to the living quarters have an adequate lock operated from the living quarters side?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

#### WINDOWS

17. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
18. Do windows have screen or storm windows that lock from the inside?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
19. Do any windows open onto areas that may be hazardous or are prone to entry by burglars?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
20. Do windows that open to hazardous areas have security screens or grills?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
21. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structures or landscaping?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
22. Is the exterior adequately lighted at all window areas?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
23. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
24. Are ladders kept outside the house where they are accessible?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes

#### BASEMENT WINDOWS AND DOORS

25. Is there a door from outside to the basement?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
26. If so, is that door adequately secure for an exterior door?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
27. Is the outside basement entrance lighted by an exterior light of at least 40 watts?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
28. Is the outside basement door concealed from the street or neighbors?	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes
29. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

#### GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS

30. Is the garage door equipped with an adequate locking device?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
31. Is the garage door kept closed and locked at all times?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
32. Are the garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
33. Is the outside utility entrance to the garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
34. Are tools and ladders kept inside the garage?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
35. Are all entrances to the garage lighted on the outside by at least a 40 watt light bulb?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No