

# Home Security Tips

*Helpful tips for making your residence safer*



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## 11 Handy Tips

1. Keep outside doors locked. Place a dowel or stick in a sliding window or door track. Windows are often much less attended to than doors, so check them throughout the home routinely.
2. Install drapes or blinds on all lower level windows and doors to obscure the visibility of expensive items such as computers, stereos and televisions. Use a caller ID system and screen all phone calls.
3. The outgoing message on your answering device should never indicate that you are not at home. Always use plural nouns even if you live alone.
4. Cut up cartons for TVs, computers, stereos, etc. Tie the pieces together so a burglar going through the garbage does not see any evidence of highly valuable household items.
5. Do not put your name and residential address on your key ring.
6. When service or delivery people come to your door, ask for ID.
7. Never leave notes on your door for delivery people.
8. When traveling, make sure you have someone checking on the house, collecting your mail and newspapers.
9. If you hear or see something suspicious call the police immediately.
10. Contact your local Police Department to determine if they have an emergency phone number for cell phones. Program the emergency number in your phone.
11. Do not post that you are out of town on your social network, i.e., Facebook page.

## What is a Hot Prowl?

“Hot Prowl” is a burglary when a subject enters, or attempts to enter your home while someone is there. A hot prowl burglary is dangerous because of the possible confrontation between the subject and victim.

### What should I do in case of a hot prowl?

A victim has a number of options to choose from if they feel someone is attempting to break into their home.

- If using a landline phone call 9-1-1 immediately. If you can't speak to the dispatcher, leave the phone off the hook – don't hang up. The dispatcher will send officers out to your location. If you can speak to the dispatcher, tell him/her what you hear, where it is coming from, how many people live in the house, etc. If you see the subject, give a description to the dispatcher. This information will be relayed to officers responding to the scene.
- If using a cell phone call your local Police Department on their cell phone emergency phone number.
- If you feel someone is in the house, and you can leave safely, do so.
- If you and other members of your family cannot leave safely, try and lock yourselves in a bedroom or bathroom. Take the phone or cell phone with you if possible.
- Be safe. Try and avoid a confrontation with the subject if at all possible.

**For more crime prevention information contact UCPD's Crime Prevention Unit at (510) 642- 3722.**