

Evanston Police Department
1454 Elmwood Avenue
Evanston, Il. 60201
Main Line: (847) 866-5000
Community Strategies Division: (847) 866-5019



Dear Resident:

An important step in preventing burglaries and other crimes is to make sure that the premise is as secure as possible. A careful inspection to observe security precautions can indicate features which would make entry easy – or difficult – for a prospective burglar.

Chances are good that the security for your home or business can be improved. Take a hard look at entry and exit points on your property and determine what steps can reduce vulnerability. This process is classified as a security inspection. A security inspection should begin at the front door and go on to include side and rear doors, windows, locks, lights, and landscaping.

Most residential and commercial burglars devote little if any time to the advance planning of any specific break-in. Their crimes are, for the most part, crimes of opportunity. They pick what appears to be an easy mark. If their advance checking and closer examination reveal a greater risk than anticipated, they generally move onto a safer target. The more you can do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer you are.

One of the first steps in improving overall security is to take a hard look at the security measures already in use in your home. To help you with this task, the Evanston Police Department has developed a security survey. A security survey is a comprehensive in-depth report that evaluates the existing security and procedures of a premise. Go through the security survey carefully and be honest with yourself. Look at your property at night, as well as in the daytime. A private residence, for example, may only entail locks, doors, windows and an alarm system. A commercial facility, however, may require addressing a much wider range of needs, such as; closed circuit television, electronic access control, fencing, security lighting, mail handling and visitor screening procedures. This survey will address security vulnerabilities and outline corrective measures.

Keeping your home secure is not hard to do. Most home security strategies are easy and do not cost a lot of money. When you think about home security, take your house, yard, business and even your neighborhood into account. Pay close attention to the vulnerable areas. A good rule of thumb is if you are locked out of your house and you can break into it without much trouble, then so can a burglar!

This survey will help you see where your home or business security needs improvement. It will take you step by step through your home, as well as your neighborhood and will also give you security tips on how or why you should do things. Checks in the “no” column of this survey indicate security weaknesses or hazards that require attention. So follow along and see how well you do.

**Evanston Police Department
Security Survey**



FRONT ENTRANCE

- Yes _____ No _____ 1. Is the door itself made of metal or solid wood construction?
- Yes _____ No _____ 2. Is the doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?
- Yes _____ No _____ 3. Are the door hinges protected from removal from outside?
- Yes _____ No _____ 4. Are there windows in the door, or windows within 40" of the locks?
- Yes _____ No _____ 5. Are the locks adequate and in good repair?
- Yes _____ No _____ 6. Are the strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws?
- Yes _____ No _____ 7. If there are no windows in the door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercommunication device?
- Yes _____ No _____ 8. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at the doorway?
- Yes _____ No _____ 9. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?
- Yes _____ No _____ 10. Is the exterior or front entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt light?
- Yes _____ No _____ 11. Can the front entrance be observed from the street or public areas?
- Yes _____ No _____ 12. Does the porch or landscaping offer concealment from the view from the street or public areas.

SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE

- Yes _____ No _____ 13. Is the door itself of metal or solid wood construction?
- Yes _____ No _____ 14. Is the doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?
- Yes _____ No _____ 15. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside?
- Yes _____ No _____ 16. Are there windows in the door or within 40" of the locks?
- Yes _____ No _____ 17. Is the door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw?
- Yes _____ No _____ 18. Are the door locks adequate and in good repair?
- Yes _____ No _____ 19. Are the strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3" screws?
- Yes _____ No _____ 20. Can the lock mechanism be reached from the outside through a delivery Port or pet entrance?
- Yes _____ No _____ 21. Is the exterior of the doorway lighted by at least a 40-watt light?
- Yes _____ No _____ 22. Is the doorway concealed from the street or neighbors' view by a porch, fence or landscaping?
- Yes _____ No _____ 23. Does the doorway have a screen or storm door with a lock?
- Yes _____ No _____ 24. If the door is a sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track?
- Yes _____ No _____ 25. Is a "Charlie-bar" or key operated auxiliary lock used on the sliding glass door?

ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT

- Yes _____ No _____ 26. Are all entrances to living quarters from the garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction?
- Yes _____ No _____ 27. Does the door from the garage to the living quarters have locks adequate for an exterior entrance?
- Yes _____ No _____ 28. Does the door from the basement to the living quarters have an adequate lock operated from the living quarter's side?

GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS

- Yes _____ No _____ 29. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition?
- Yes _____ No _____ 30. Do all windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside?
- Yes _____ No _____ 31. Do any windows open onto areas that may be hazardous or offer special risk to burglary?
- Yes _____ No _____ 32. If so, do these windows have security screens or grills?
- Yes _____ No _____ 33. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealed structure or landscaping?
- Yes _____ No _____ 34. Is the exterior adequately lighted at all window areas?

UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS

- Yes _____ No _____ 35. Do any upper floor windows open onto a porch or garage roof, or a roof or an adjoining building?
- Yes _____ No _____ 36. Is so, are they secured adequately, as if they were at ground level?
- Yes _____ No _____ 37. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows?
- Yes _____ No _____ 38. Are ladders kept outside the house, where they are accessible?
- Yes _____ No _____ 39. If so, are they locked up?

BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Yes _____ No _____ 40. Is there a door from the outside to the basement?
- Yes _____ No _____ 41. If so, is that door adequately secured for an exterior door?
- Yes _____ No _____ 42. Is the outside basement entrance lighted by an exterior light of at least 40 watts?
- Yes _____ No _____ 43. Is the outside basement door concealed from the street or neighbors?
- Yes _____ No _____ 44. Are all basement windows adequately secured against possible entry?
- Yes _____ No _____ 45. Are window well covers utilized? If so, are they installed properly to allow for an emergency exit?

GARAGE DOORS & WINDOWS

- Yes _____ No _____ 46. Is the automobile entrance door to the garage equipped with an adequate locking device?
- Yes _____ No _____ 47. Is the garage door kept closed and locked at all times?
- Yes _____ No _____ 48. Are the garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows?
- Yes _____ No _____ 49. Is the outside utility entrance to the garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance?
- Yes _____ No _____ 50. Are tools and ladders kept in the garage?
- Yes _____ No _____ 51. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-watt light?



Dear Evanston Resident:

The Evanston Police Department's Crime Prevention Specialist has provided you with tips on making your property more secure. Please keep in mind that even though all necessary precautions are taken; it is not a guarantee that your property will not be burglarized. The goal of the Security Survey, is to reduce the risk and remove the opportunity for a crime to occur by utilizing a target-hardening approach.

We hope this information will help make your property safer in the City of Evanston. If you have any questions, or require further information, please feel free to contact me at (847) 866-5019.

Sincerely,

Kerry Demski

Evanston Police Department
Community Strategies Division
Crime Prevention Specialist



An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

