



Security Measures

Some general security measures that you can put in place are below:

- You should have a solid core door (not hollow) with a dead bolt.
- If you have a sliding glass door, you should have an additional locking device besides the door lock. All windows should have a secondary locking device.
- If you have a security system ALL windows should have a contact to the system. If you are purchasing a system, be sure that windows are included or you will not get an insurance discount, even if one window is not contacted. This includes all stories (from the ground up).

Other Safety Suggestions

(Securing the interior of your home)

- With a cat/dog door cut in a door, it makes it easier to break a door down.
- Many crooks use kids to get home to unlock doors.
- If you are purchasing an alarm system, get an audible alarm! Otherwise, you may be confronted by a crook when you get home. You want your neighbors to hear it as well. Get an audible alarm and get the **LOUDEST!!**
- Check your sliding glass doors. Sometime they are incorrectly installed and are on backwards. Intruders can just lift them out and enter your home. You have to have them pulled out and installed correctly. Some of them, you can drill a hole through and put a pin in.
- If you're going on an extended vacation or will be away from home for an extended period of time, put a padlock through the interior holes on your garage door.
- When out of town don't call to stop newspaper delivery. Have a trusted neighbor pickup your papers when you're away. Also, if you see your neighbors' papers or flyers gathering, please pick them up.
- Use automatic lights switches to light up your home when you will be out for the night.
- If you see your neighbors alarm has been set off, call 911.
- Some alarm systems include a "panic button". If you are in serious, immediate danger **USE IT!!**
- Don't test your system to see if Raleigh PD will show up. Call RPD and tell them you are doing a test.

- Stick with a reputable company. Most are monitored out of state. It is better if they do their monitoring in state. There are local security companies.
- If you purchase an alarm system, be sure that you know how to use it!! Be sure that all windows and doors are contacted.
- If several neighbors are interested in purchasing a system, you can approach a security company and ask for a discount for several people signing at once.
- When it comes to alarm systems, get something that you can live with that is not too complicated but effective.

(Securing the exterior of your home)

- Your bushes should be no taller than three (3) feet tall so that a crook cannot hide in them and jump out at you.
- Keep your doors locked when you are home.
- If someone comes in the front door, you get out the back door. **Get out! DO NOT try to fight an intruder!**
- If you see someone suspicious walking near your home, don't pull in your driveway, go around the block and call RPD. **Better to be safe than sorry!**
- If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't.
- If you have a shed in the backyard, **GET IT PADLOCKED**. While shed break-ins are not commonplace here in Hedingham, **DON'T GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY!!**
- You should have motion sensors on lights outside so you know if someone is in the area. They should be placed over the garage, in the yard and over the door for when you come home.
- **GET LIGHTS!!** Officers have said that the cheapest AND BEST security you will ever have is a **light**. Crooks are deterred by lights. There aren't many night time burglars, *but they are the dangerous ones because they know that people are more likely to be home*. There should also be lights on all corners of your home as well as one above the garage and one shining on the front porch. The light above front door should be motion censored. Ground lights are another way so heighten security on the exterior of your home. They don't put out much light but put out some. Note that if your lights are always on, you may not notice if someone is there. With motion sensors, they are triggered on and you can immediately tell if someone is there. Sensors can be tuned up and down. Go to a hardware store (Home Depot, Lowes, etc) they are typically well informed and can offer advice.

Auto and Garage Theft

- The #1 crime is auto theft. Don't leave things in your car ESPECIALLY your garage door opener. The very best thing to do is, clean out your garage and park your car in it.
- Don't leave 50 cents or even an empty bag. Do not give anyone a reason to think that there is something valuable in your car.
- Don't leave your garage open even if you are in the back yard. They can steal quickly, very quickly.
- Don't put boxes from new expensive equipment out front. Crooks drive around to look at what empty boxes are there. Cut them up and put them in a trash bag.

Shopping Crimes (including holiday tips)

- Don't leave Christmas tree in front with gifts showing. They may have kids.
- Don't go shopping at night. Go during the day and in pairs or large groups.
- Park in well lit parking lots if you do go at night.
- Have a security guard go with you to your car. Most stores have one to do that.
- Have your keys in hand before leaving the store. So you do not have to put down your packages to get your keys.
- Put ALL packages in your trunk. Do not let them show in your back seat.
- Have your keys out, if you have automatic locks, wait until you get close to your car before unlocking it.
- If you have an automatic ignition, wait until you are very close to your car before starting it.
- Don't start your car in your garage.
- A neighbor suggested that handicap license plates may be a lure. A crook may be looking for vulnerable people. A removable sticker would be best.
- If you are traveling away from home, unplug garage door opener and put a bar through it.
- Have your purse not look like a "purse".
- Put it in the trunk BEFORE you get to your destination.

Live Alone?

- If you live alone, get a big Beware of Dog sign weather you have a dog or not. Also, get dog bowls and put them inside and out.
- Buy large boots from good will put one pair near your back door and one near your front and rotate them.
- Make it look like you have a big dog and/or large man living with you.

General Safety

- Call 911 if someone is in danger or something is currently happening.
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GET INVOLVED!! THIS IS WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS ALL ABOUT!!**