



## Pima County Sheriff's Department

# HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

With home burglaries and break-ins a concern, the Pima County Sheriff's Department, along with your help and vigilance, can assist in reducing these crimes. The following checklist provides some ideas for how you can make your home a harder target.

## LOCKS

- ✓ Keep doors and windows locked at all times, whether you are at home or away.
- ✓ Use deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw on all exterior doors, and ensure that exterior doors are solid wood or metal.
- ✓ Use window locks on all windows and sliders, or cut wood or metal dowels to drop in the window track to prevent the window from being opened.
- ✓ Keep garage doors shut and locked at all times.
- ✓ Keep gates to back yard padlocked.

## LIGHTS

- ✓ Keep exterior lights on at night. Consider motion-sensor lights for hidden dark areas, or "dusk-to-dawn" lights to make outside lighting easy.
- ✓ When away for extended periods of time, consider placing interior lights on random timers, so lights turn on and off at different times in the evening.

## LANDSCAPING

- ✓ Keep trees, shrubs, and bushes trimmed away from doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for criminals.
- ✓ Consider "Planting for Prevention" and plant cactus or thorny bushes near windows and hiding places to deter criminals from using those areas to their advantage.

## ET CETERA

- ✓ Positively identify anyone requesting entry into your home. If you are unsure about who they are, deny entrance, and call 9-1-1 if they do not leave.
- ✓ Consider installing a home alarm, and if you already have one, USE IT!
- ✓ If away from home, have a friend or trusted neighbor pick up mail and newspapers daily, and park their vehicle in your driveway if possible.
- ✓ Make sure your address is visible from the street, day and night.
- ✓ Try not to advertise the fact that you are away from your home. Your telephone answering machine should say that you are unable to come to the phone right now, rather than provide details as to where you are, or are not.

Making your home a harder target may send a potential criminal to another target. IF we all follow these tips, we may be successful in reducing property crimes in Pima County.

