Do it yourself

Security on a shoestring

Get this guide to self security, home protection, homemade defense, peace of mind!

Self Help Guide by –
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SOME TOPICS COVERED:

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.. looking at doors
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.. timers for security
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.. arm / leg weapon
.. hide in plain sight
.. steering cover
.. smoke cloak
.. waste bin
.. fence defense
.. fast kitchen weapon
.. make your own chain locks
.. instant portable toilet for workers
AND MORE…
THE BASICS

Your well-lit home becomes less likely to be broken into.

Look at house outside at night. Assure exterior lighted with motion detector floodlights or spotlights or other outdoor light fixtures.

Stand far for another look. Can you put timers on lights - interior or exterior - to give the impression of home life?

Look at your trees – do they provide hiding places. If so, can you reduce concealment by maybe lifting or removing low hanging branches? Look at your hedges and thick bushes - have they grown too close to house making dim areas for burglars? Any other hideouts? Stop movement of burglars around house by putting plants, esp. tough thorny ones, under windows and at corners. Or large wrought iron brackets into ground and projecting outward or attached to wall.

Let's look at burglar access areas.

Look at locks. Do you have deadbolts that need key on the outside, with thumb latch inside?
Look at door locks - can you surround them with door reinforcement plate?

Look at door hinges. How long are those screws. Do you have longer screws you can replace those short ones with to secure into wood frame in the wall?

How you can upgrade your locking system. Maybe by adding a surface-mount, rim-mount or vertical deadbolt lock. If in area where doors regularly kicked in, perhaps you can budget a front door with a multi-point locking system that engages the door frame at three points instead of just one.

What about patio doors and windows. Can you improve security of patio door by adding a patio bar? A wood dowel or 2x4 can stop the door sliding open. And stop it being pried off. Place the wood in the track.

And garage? Can you prevent the door from being slid open by the insert of a bolt through a hole in the side track?

Now examine inside house. Can you see every area of your yards? Can you see when anybody approaching, knocking, hanging out, lurking?
Windows cost a lot to install, so how about cheap Peepholes. Where can you install them around house to see all invisible areas? How about a wide-angle peephole in front door? Garage door? House side where no windows? Peepholes have many sizes, shapes, lengths and angles of view and cost very little, and require next to no effort to install if you can drill a hole through a wall or door.

How about a cheap security camera? Most low cost systems include infrared motion detection and remote control. You can add easy-to-install door and window break-in sensors. Camera can record what it sees to videotape, dvd or computer - and send recorded images to your cellphone or that of friends and police. The market for security in apartments and small homes remains highly competitive such that you can purchase an adequate setup with lots of features for under a hundred bucks.

Spend five dollars and under? Security stores and Ebay sell a variety of individual alarms that run off batteries? These attach to front, side and back doors for instant alert when a door opens. Some models allow for setting alarm intensity or type ring, or delay in seconds.

Spend under a dollar? Pickup signs that warn about security. Stores online sell window and yard stickers, labels, placards that discourage burglars. Even if you do not have the actual security
alarm service, the signs suggest you do. Look at the sign on the cover…and these:
You can easily keep thieves away from your home. Experts say:
Flood the place with bright, revealing light.

For indoor lighting, experts say choose a random timer to control when the lights turn on and off. Put a timer on a radio, especially a talk show, to give impression of people talking in the house. Or a television facing a window to provide a flickering light. Assure the light display in the house goes on and off at different hours. Otherwise the lights going on and off at exactly the same time every day will signal Empty House to the burglar. Next to this, keep the yard clean - meaning no uncollected newspapers and packages which act as a giveaway nobody living at home.

Try solar lights you stick into the ground around the yard. Find at dollar stores, ready to use. Try strings of solar LED lights for back patios under eaves or along wall or cover.
Fake versus Real Security Camera? Fake cams will scare away a thief. Look at the camera on the cover – Fake! They cost a few bucks, and mounted atop roof or window look like the real thing. For a few dollars more you can buy the real deal of a CCTV security camera. Many electronics shops and online stores offer realistic fake cameras in many styles for your home. Then again, the real deal security systems have such low prices nowadays it makes sense just to get them.
Make a Video Log. Can you make a video inventory of your valuables? Hold camera with a steady hand, making slow movements, and showing all sides. If no digital video camera, how about using your cell phone with photo and video. Film in the house, car and residence. Photo receipts as well. Make sure to get serial numbers! Does your computer or printer let you scan documents? Copy your video, photos and scans onto cd or dvd discs and store them safely out of sight. If not sure how to do this, ask most any college or high school student you know and trust, perhaps a relative or from a church, school or neighborhood group. The recordings provide proofs you can supply as needed to police and insurance company. Make a proof of ownership record of furniture, jewelry, electronics, appliances, vehicles, almost anything that costs money, and that a thief can sell. Include lawn chairs and large planters on porch and yard. Save the inventory logs, and make a backup in case your insurance adjuster asks for proof that you owned certain items.
MOTION LIGHTING.

Shine sudden bright light when a body moves within range. Most motion sensors allow you to set the range or distance to activate, as well as the time ON.

Motion devices come in a wide range of types. Some need mounting on a wall and wiring into the house electrical system, a simple task easily done without an electrician. And some use batteries that you attach on hooks anywhere around the house where you need them. The type with LED lights (one screw-in bulb type shown here) cost next to nothing to operate, especially the solar ones - besides replacing batteries.
Place solar motion sensor lamps in yard near shrubbery, tall trees, any hiding places. The fact of lights turning on when they approach will scare off people looking to break into your home at night. Install a motion detector floodlight near your front door to illuminate anyone coming up at night.

USE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE LYING AROUND

Use a 2 x 4 piece of wood by placing it up under your door knob to make a wooden jamb. This will prevent door being kicked open. Next to this, examine the door's lock strike plate - considered a weak point in any door.
Use a wooden dowel or old broom or mop stick to turn it into a security measure for your sliding door. Put it into the track to prevent door opening. Back out a few of the screws along the top track of your sliding glass door. This prevents burglar taking the door off the track.

Use wood like these to secure your windows. For vertical windows, put dowel upright and secure with tape, or put velcro midway to hold dowel upright. Jimmy a stick to prevent burglar raising it from outside.

For aluminum or vinyl sliding windows how about a thin dowel in the track where the windows slide back and forth? Thumbscrew clamps can fit into the groove of windows to prevent movement beyond a certain point.

Find at home improvement stores small metal track locks to stop window movement. A small metal with a wing nut attaches to the track and locks it. Position it on window then tighten the nut. Place it so window can open for air, yet stop a burglar opening it enough to jump inside room. Keep valuables away from the area where window opens.
USE PIECE OF THREAD, FISHING LINE, TAPE AND JINGLE BELLS

Tie jingle bells on strings and hang them on your doors. Every time the door moves, bells will jingle.

You can tape piece of thread or fishing line on the lower corners of exterior doors. When you return home, and find it ripped away, you had a visitor. Use this trick on your vehicle when left in a parking lot overnight. Tape car door, hood and trunk.

YOUR DOORS

Locking storm door very hard for thieves to kick in. This means they have to kick through two doors. The storm door gets in the way of the best place to kick on the door. Doors that look like gates - called security doors - deter thieves. Fit them with dead bolts. Security doors look pretty now that home improvement stores sell them with decorative patterns. These doors don't cost much brand new. For cheaper, look for them on craigslist and recycle yards. Pick up used ones for the rear doors and any sheds. Another type door called laminated glass storm doors has tempered glass like your front windshield, meaning if it breaks it
stays in place. Thus, a thief cannot enter through the broken pane in a door.

**ELECTRONIC GADGETS.**

Barking dog monitor? This alarm goes off with the sound of a mad dog when anybody approaches. The sound of a vicious dog barking will scare away burglars. Even if a burglar senses the dog not real, just the idea you do things to protect your property will deter. If entry gate and garage door meet in a corner, try placing the dog alarm inside the garage door, since these devices can detect movement through metal and wood.

Cheap vibration alarms to put on the window glass. Make them visible, so thief knows if he knocks against the window an alarm will sound.
ROOM SURVEILLANCE

With people going in and out of your residence, you need to monitor your property. Situations such as roommates or strangers going in and out - like contractors, plumbers, guests of guests. A cheap fast sure way to gain security for your bedroom or office works like this:

Try putting your laptop with its camera facing the entry to your room, or the room you want to view. Secure the laptop so it cannot be moved or stolen - use a laptop lock or chain it to a bedpost or desk or dresser. Download and install a freeware off internet that does periodic video recording. These surveillance softwares have names like HomeCamera, Webcam Watchdog, EvoCam, etc - dozens out there. Adjust the program to make a video recording when anybody approaches. Watch the recording later on, or in real time on your smartphone while away.