

"I Love Referrals!" Diane Bartsch

HOME SECURITY MEASURES THAT DON'T BREAK THE BANK

Think you need to install a state-of-the-art, expensive security system to keep your home safe?

Think again.

While you can certainly spend thousands of dollars and make your home a virtual fortress, you don't have to. You can significantly reduce the threat to your home and family with less expensive, common-sense solutions that are easy to implement.

Burglars and other miscreants don't like obstacles. Encountering them, they'll usually move on. So anything you can do to deter them can be quite effective. They can often be dissuaded by simple strategies, such as these:

- Instead of simple screen doors, install security doors.
- Replace exterior doors that have glass panels – or install deadbolts that open only with a key. Otherwise, it's often an easy matter for a thief to break the glass and open the door from the inside.
- Have deadbolts on exterior doors.
- If you get an unexpected knock on the door, find out who it is before opening the door.
- Put a pipe or metal bar in the middle bottom track of sliding glass doors to prevent them from being opened.
- Always make it appear as though someone is home. If you go out at night, leave at least one interior light turned on.
- Keep drapes or blinds closed, especially in rooms with valuable items.
- Don't leave extra door keys in obvious locations such as under doormats or in potted plants. Find a less conspicuous spot or leave a key with a trusted neighbor.
- Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- Put latching metal or hard plastic covers over window wells.
- Have motion-sensitive lights (floodlights work well) around entrances to your home, and possibly in dark areas where burglars could hide.
- Don't leave notes on the door for friends or delivery people. This is a dead giveaway that you're not home.
- Store valuables in a safe or safety deposit box; don't leave them in plain view.



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When You're Gone for an Extended Period of Time

- Put timers on interior lights and maybe even your TV. You can buy timers that stagger the turn-on and turn-off times, making it appear more natural. You may want to have timers in more than one room.
- Either have a neighbor gather up your mail and newspapers or put the services on hold. Some security experts advise against the latter, though, because of concerns over who may find out you'll be gone.
- Tell trusted neighbors where you're going and when you'll return, and give them a phone number or e-mail address where they can reach you. Ask them to keep an eye on your home while you're gone, and do the same for them.

Home Security Systems

If you want more protection, you might consider a home security system. Certain sophisticated systems should be installed only by experts. However, you can install many wireless systems yourself.

An alarm will often scare off a potential burglar. And the police department will be notified automatically when an alarm is tripped.

Of course, any security system is worthless if not activated. Make sure everybody in your family knows how to do so, and how to unarm it upon returning home.

You may choose to have motion-activated cameras in critical rooms such as your living room, home office and bedrooms. Their mere presence may deter burglars, and if somebody breaks in, the recording may help identify and convict them.

If you have the right system, you can monitor the security system or video cameras remotely from a computer or smartphone. Monitoring the cameras may help you avoid unpleasant surprises upon returning home.

To explore home security systems, search the phone book under "Burglar Alarms" or "Security," or enter similar search phrases in your Web browser.



995 Dresslerville Road... Offered at \$299,000

Immaculate Horse Property with RV/Shop close to town on a one acre lot! Three main level bedrooms include the Master with freshly updated travertine bathroom. The kitchen which opens to the spacious dining room is updated with appliances, counters, and cooktop. A 40x40 shop with 12ft. doors; 16x12 foaling stall, arena, auto water and wash set up.



65 Garms Circle ... Offered at \$439,000

Fabulous Horse Property! Immaculate home in the country features a huge country kitchen with built-in sideboard, center island and breakfast bar adjoining the cozy family room. A formal living room with gas log fireplace and formal dining room are reminiscent of farmhouse living of yesteryear. White vinyl split rail fencing, lush lawns and a front porch for sipping tea complete the picture. Bright and sunny with a spacious new ground level Master Suite whose bath is accented with rich limestone and granite. Newly installed carpet.

This information is provided as a courtesy only, is not a warranty, and should be independently investigated by buyers

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