

## Home Safes

- Use the safe often so it becomes routine
- Install it away from the master bedroom
- Anchor safes to the floor



## Property Identification

- Photograph and record the serial numbers of all valuables
- Photocopy the contents of your wallet and other documents
- Store the copies in a safe deposit box or with a relative

## FREE Security Assessment

Let one of our certified crime prevention practitioners visit your home and provide you with recommendations on how to better protect your residence. These **FREE** assessments involve a review of entry and exit points, locks, lights and landscaping. Assessments take approximately 45 minutes to complete. To schedule an assessment, contact us at 407-665-6650.

## House Watch

Going out of town? The House Watch program adds an extra layer of security to your home while you're away. At your request, deputies will check on your home, driving by to look for anything that might be unusual, and walking around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, contact us at 407-665-6650 and request a House Watch. A deputy will be dispatched to your residence to meet with you and complete a House Watch form. For more information, or to print and complete the form in advance, go to our website.



[www.seminolesheriff.org](http://www.seminolesheriff.org)

# HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION



**SHERIFF**  
SEMINOLE COUNTY



Donald F. Eslinger

**The** majority of home and apartment burglaries occur during the daytime. Burglaries are committed most often by young males, less than 25 years of age, looking for items that are small, expensive and can easily be converted to cash. A high percentage of burglars use some amount of force to enter a dwelling, but their preference is to gain easy access through an unsecured door or window.

A burglar will simply bypass your home if it requires too much effort or requires more skill and tools than they possess. Follow these tips to minimize your risk and make your home unattractive to potential burglars.

## Doors and Locks

- Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, dead bolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt
- Use a heavy-duty, four-screw strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame

## Sliding Glass Doors

- Secure sliding glass doors with secondary locking devices
- Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws
- Use fold-down blocking devices

## Alarm Systems

- Use visible stickers and signs
- Ensure system is properly installed, programmed, and maintained
- Be sure alarm horn is audible
- Keep your alarm response call list up to date
- Activate alarms when home alone

## Lighting

- Use interior light timers to give the appearance of occupancy
- Set up exterior lighting to provide 100 feet of visibility
- Install lighting along your pathway and at your door
- Use timers or photocells to turn lights on and off automatically

## Windows

- Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices
- Block accessible windows to prevent them from opening no more than six inches for ventilation

## Landscaping Tips

- Prevent a burglar from hiding behind the foliage. Trim your bushes, hedges and shrubs so they are no higher than 2-3 feet.
- In areas where you need privacy, plant thorn-type bushes such as Cactus, Bougainvillea or Spanish Bayonet
- Tree branches should be trimmed so they are no lower than 6 feet from the ground to provide good visibility from your home and the roadway
- Be sure your house numbers are plainly visible from the roadway so law enforcement, fire and medical personnel can easily locate your home in an emergency