



# Vacaville Police Department Residential Security Survey

(707) 449-6144

660 Merchant St, Vacaville CA

CrimePrevention@CityofVacaville.com

No house is absolutely burglar-proof if professional burglars target your home. But they would be the first to admit that you can discourage burglars if you beef up your home security. You can begin this process by identifying your weak areas and fixing them.

The checklist below will assist you in systematically surveying your home and your practices. Every “No” check mark shows a weak point. As you eliminate the “No” check marks, you improve your protection. Any security measure you decide upon must ensure ease of escape from a room, home or yard if there were a fire or other emergency. All things, including your personal lifestyle should be weighed in your decision-making process.

Remember that this survey will only identify some of your weak areas. You have not improved your home security until these areas are corrected. Complying with these suggestions will not, of course, make a home burglar-proof, but it will certainly improve your protection. Some of the measures are listed under the most logical heading (Windows, Doors, Exterior, etc.) though it may apply to more than one area. Please read entire survey for best results.

Some of the suggestions you simply may not want to do, once you weigh your risk, convenience, and cost. Perhaps you will not want to cut a certain tree to make your home more visible to neighbors, enjoying its shade or sentimental value. Or you may not want to install an alarm system, deciding it is too costly for your current situation.

On the other hand, if you have a particular lifestyle, profession, or are being stalked, there are additional security measures that can be taken that are not part of this survey.

The Vacaville Police Department also provides personal Security Surveys as a public service. These surveys are intended to provide basic security precautions and are not a substitute for professional security consultants particular to your commercial and or personal loss exposures.

It is important take a critical look at your home security every three to four months. Do not become lax—crime prevention is a continuous process.

This residential security survey has been prepared to give recommendations for making your residence safe and secure. Although none of these recommendations are guaranteed to stop crime, they are an important step in reducing the potential to you, and your home from becoming victims of crime.

The Vacaville Police Department offers many different crime prevention presentations and has available brochures and literature on preventing crime. Please contact the Department’s Crime Prevention Unit for any other questions or comments (see phone numbers at top of the page.)

YES	NO	CHILD SAFETY AT HOME
		Will you be home or will there be other responsible adult supervision for your children?
		Do you have smoke detectors on all the floors in your home, and do they work?
		If guns are on the premises, are they stored & locked safely? And ammunition locked separately?
		Are prescription drugs, alcohol, and other medicines or vitamins locked up?
		Are all cleaning supplies, chemicals, matches, and flammable liquids properly stored?
		Do you have a fire escape plan and have you practiced it with family members?
		Will someone monitor the children’s use of the Internet/and or telephone?
		Are 9-1-1 and other emergency numbers posted by the phone?
		Have you trained your children how to handle someone at the door?
		Have you trained your kids to lock doors and windows?
		Do you show by example what you want your kids to do? (examples speak louder than words)
		Do your children know what to do in an emergency?
		Have you asked your children “what if” questions on every conceivable issue that might arise?







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YES	NO	AWAY FROM HOME / AND OTHER ISSUES
		Do you hide garbage cans or invite a neighbor to put trash in them so it looks like you are home, and place them and remove them from the street on collection day?
		Do you park a car half-way down your driveway so it looks like someone is home, and makes it harder for a thief to load up goods?
		Do you not utilize the "away from the office" feature on your email?
		Do you use a safety deposit box?
		Do you not keep keys easily accessible in your home to the casual guest/burglar?
		Do you not put valuables in an obvious spot? (i.e. – master bedroom, jewelry box)
		Did you change your alarm code so it does not have the manufacturer's or previous owner's code as a viable option anymore?
		Do you retrieve your mail as soon as possible, and not leave outgoing mail to be picked up – especially with the flag raised?
		Do you make sure you remove flyers from your front door so it looks like you are home?
		Do you keep a list of all valuable property? And, do you keep this list in a safe place?
		Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your watches, cameras, computers and similar items?
		Have you participated in Operation Identification by engraving items of value, such as electronic equipment?
		Do you have a detailed description (or photos) of other valuables that do not have serial numbers?
		Do you avoid unnecessary display or publicity of your valuables?
		Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank?
		Have you told your family what to do if they discover a burglar breaking in or already in the house?
		Have you told your family to leave the house undisturbed and call the sheriff or police if they discover a burglary has been committed?
		Do you have emergency telephone numbers listed by or on your phone?
		Do you have a security closet with a solid core door, pinned hinges and deadbolt lock?
		Do you know your neighbors?
		Do you belong to an official Neighborhood Watch Program?
		Do you give out personal information only when necessary?
		Do you shred personal information when no longer needed?
		Do you only open the door to people you know?
		Do you make sure all members practice safety, following up on the youngest or most lackadaisical to ensure they are following safety procedures?
		Do you test your smoke and burglar alarms?
		Do you put away valuables, including bikes?
		Do you have a phone with numbers that light up?
		Do you have emergency supplies on hand for fire, earthquakes or power outages?
		Do you have a landline phone in your home?
		Do you have more than just a portable phone in your home?
		Are you not listed in the phone book?
		Do you not mention confidential issues in front of your children, where they might share sensitive information with someone who could use that information against you?
		Do you have a cell phone?
		If you have firearms, are they unloaded and locked safely away?
		If you have firearms do you keep this information confidential?
		Are your firearms registered?
		Are grills, lawn-mowers, and other valuables stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point?
		Are your bikes always locked even if in a secured garage?