have you seen anyone suspicious?

If you do see a suspicious person or action, call the authorities immediately and answer all questions asked. Do not hang up.

Give an identifying description of the suspicious person, such as:

Sex _____

Race _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Age _____

Hair / Facial hair _____

Clothing _____

Auto make, model, color _____

License plate number _____

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Designed by Protect America

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PREVENTING BURGLARY

a guide for citizens

Scott County Sheriff's Office

burglary: a preventable crime

Every year, more than 2.1 million burglaries are reported to law enforcement authorities. These account for 21% of property crimes in the United States. On average, one burglary results in a financial loss of **$1,725**. [1]

However, many of these crimes are completely preventable. With a small amount of preparation, you too can thwart would-be burglars.

1. check your locks

In almost half of all completed residential burglaries, thieves enter through unlocked doors or windows. [2] Commit to **locking every door and window every time** you're not home.

2. secure obvious entrances

94% of successful burglars enter through the ground floor. 70% enter through the front or back door. [3] **Concentrate your efforts on making these areas as secure as possible.**

Consider installing:

- Flood lights on every entry door.
- Dead-bolts on every entry door.
- Peep holes on every entry door.

3. make your place look occupied

Burglars prefer to target residences that are unoccupied. [4] **Create the illusion that you're home by:**

- Setting interior lights, TVs and stereos on timers. [5]
- Parking your spare vehicle in your driveway instead of your garage.
- Alerting the post office if you're going on vacation so your mail doesn't pile up.

4. ditch the hidden key

That spare key under your doormat is a free pass to any would-be thief. Instead, **give your spare key to a neighbor you trust.**

5. consider getting an alarm system

In a survey of 400+ career burglars, **83% said they would determine if an alarm was present before attempting a burglary.** [6] If you're seriously concerned about the safety of your home, a home security system can be a powerful deterrent.

6. they'll be back

If you're unlucky enough to be burgled, be aware. **76% of burglars return within 30 days to attempt another burglary.** [7]

If you've been burgled, change your locks, lock your doors and windows, make your residence appear as occupied as possible and consider getting an alarm system.