

# Home Security Quiz

## Is your home an easy target for thieves?

### OUTSIDE HOME

**Are there clear views of all windows and doors?**

- Yes       No

The more private an area is, the more likely it is to attract the attention of a criminal. Thieves like to work where they can't be seen. Trim trees and shrubs that block sight to your windows and doors, especially basement windows. Consider installing a wide-angle lens peephole.

**Are there visible interior or exterior lights that give the impression you are home, even if you're not?**

- Yes       No

Install outside lighting to eliminate dark areas around doors or windows. Consider using motion lights with a low intensity.

### DOORS

**Is there an easy way of seeing who is at your door without having to open it?**

- Yes       No

Every door should have a way of clearly seeing who is there without opening it. This will allow you to keep your door locked while assessing the visitor prior to opening it. Leave your door locked when you are at home, including your screen door. If you have a screen door, you should have it locked and you can open the main door to converse with any person while maintaining security. A locked screen door also provides additional security to any door.

**Do all of your exterior doors have a deadbolt with a part that extends into the door frame that is at least one inch long? Are the screws located on the door jamb opposite the lock at least 2.5 inches long?**

- Yes       No

Criminals with tools easily defeat conventional key in the knob locks. Deadbolts should be installed on all exterior doors. Door kick break-ins are becoming common. To secure a door properly, the screws should be at least 2.5 – 3.5 inches long, and the strike plate should have a minimum of four offset holes.

**If you have a sliding door, do you have a security bar in the bottom track to prevent the door from opening?**

- Yes       No

The standard locking pin on sliding doors is usually cast metal, which breaks easily. A snug fitting security bar, or even hockey stick, should be added to the door to prevent it from being pried.

The Home Security Quiz was developed to give you an indication of the level of security in and around your home.



## WINDOWS

***Do the windows of your home have a:***

- pin (removable nail-like object drilled through the overlapping vertical frame at a downward angle); or***
- secondary aftermarket locking device?***

Yes       No

Most window locks are easily broken. Criminals target sliding windows because they are easy to jimmy open. Add one or both of the security measures mentioned above.

Basement windows, and windows next to doors, can be protected using a piece of polycarbonate – a clear, rubberized plastic. It is important that you can escape, in the event of a fire, when using a barrier-type counter-measure.

## GARAGE DOORS

***Do you always close and lock your garage door?***

Yes       No

Garages are a favourite target because they often have other valuables, such as vehicles, power tools, sporting goods, and bicycles in them. Thefts from garages are an easily preventable crime. Keep garage doors closed and locked, even when you are home. Be sure the overhead door closes completely after you drive in or out of your garage.

## VALUABLES

***Do you store valuables in a safety deposit box or in the basement?***

Yes       No

The best place to put valuables is in a safety deposit box. A good alternative is to hide valuables in a lock box in a general storage area concealed in your home.

It's a good idea to make a list of your valuables, take photos of them, and list their serial numbers and descriptions. Engrave your electronics, bikes, and tools.

## NEIGHBOURS

***Do you know your neighbours across the street and on all three sides of you?***

Yes       No

Neighbours can look out for one another and their property. Building your community connections enhances the security and quality of your home. Neighbours are also excellent people to watch over your home when you are away.



## WHEN AWAY

***Do you leave lights on timers, both inside and outside the home?***

- Yes       No

Timers make a home look lived in and will avoid leaving your home in darkness at night and leaving the outside lights on during the day.

***Do you have a trusted neighbour or friend to pick up your mail, newspapers, and flyers?***

- Yes       No

The accumulation of mail is a sure sign that nobody is home.

***Have you made arrangements to have your lawn cut and snow shoveled?***

- Yes       No

The appearance of your home should not vary whether you are home or away.

***Do you leave a message on your answering machine that leaves the impression you are not home?***

- Yes       No

Never leave a message to say or imply you are not home or away for a period of time. Keep it the same as when you are home.

## RESULTS

Your results reflect the level of security your home has in relation to the most common security weaknesses. If you have answered 'no' to any of these questions, consider what changes you can make to improve your home security.

One final tip is to ensure emergency personnel can easily see your address from the street, even at night.

For more Crime Prevention information, visit the Edmonton Police Service website: [www.edmontonpolice.ca/crimeprevention](http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/crimeprevention)

For more information on Safedmonton, visit their website: [www.edmonton.ca/safedmonton](http://www.edmonton.ca/safedmonton)

