

**Do-It-Yourself
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY SURVEY**

This do it yourself survey is intended to provide the resident with an assessment of his/her home's defenses against being a victim of a burglary or theft. Although no residence is burglar proof, enhancing your home's security can help deter against being victimized. As you complete this survey measure it against your personal lifestyle and what security improvements you choose to make. Any security improvements made must ensure the ability to escape from the home in the event of a fire or other emergency.

If you have any questions or would like the assistance of the Waco Police Department in enhancing your home's defenses call 254-750-1761. The services are free and confidential.

Neighborhood

Yes No N/A

- Do you know your neighbors who live on all sides of your residence?
- Do you belong to a Neighborhood Watch program?
- Do your neighbors watch your home when you are away?
- Are common areas such as community mailboxes, courtyards and playgrounds illuminated at night?

Home Exterior

- Are your house numbers 4 to 6 inches high and visible from the street both during the day and night?
- Is your mailbox clearly addressed?
- Does your mailbox have a locking system to protect your mail?
- Are shrubs, bushes and other plants within 4 feet of a sidewalk, driveway, door or gate maintained at a height of 2 feet or less?
- Are shrubs, bushes and other plants within 4 to 8 feet of a sidewalk, driveway, door or gate maintained at a height of 4 feet or less?
- Are tree branches at least 6 feet above the ground?

- O O O Are trees located or pruned such that they cannot be used to climb to an upper level of the home?**
- O O O Do you use thorny/spiny plants as ground cover along fences and under windows?**
- O O O Has decorative rock or material that makes noise when walked on been used as ground cover near the home?**
- O O O Has fencing, paving, landscaping or other means been used to identify when a person moves from public or common property to your property?**
- O O O If there is a fence around your property are the gates locked?**
- O O O Are mowers, weed eaters, bicycles, tools, ladders, etc. secured when not in use?**
- O O O Are detached buildings kept locked?**
- O O O Are vehicles parked on the street or in the driveway locked and are valuables removed or secured in the trunk?**
- O O O Are boats/jet skis secured and trolling motors, depth finders, etc. removed and secured?**
- O O O Are exterior phone lines protected so they cannot be easily cut?**
- O O O Are exterior utility boxes secured to prevent unauthorized access?**
- O O O Do exterior lights provide 360-degree lighting around the perimeter of your residence?**
- O O O Are your lights controlled by photocells/motion sensors instead of a manual switch?**
- O O O Are entryways, porches and walkways to the residence illuminated at night?**
- O O O Are low mounted lights protected so the bulbs cannot be unscrewed?**
- O O O Are all the exterior lights working?**

Garage

- O O O Is the garage door kept closed when not in use, even when home?**
- O O O If not equipped with a garage door opener, is the door kept locked?**
- O O O Are keys removed from vehicles parked in the garage?**
- O O O Are windows covered with shades to prevent persons from looking in to assess what valuables are stored in the garage?**
- O O O If a keypad is used for entry into garage, is the code periodically changed?**
- O O O Are doors from the garage into the house kept locked?**

Doors

- O O O Are exterior doors leading into the house and garage metal or solid core construction?**
- O O O Do doors fit properly in their frames?**
- O O O Do exterior doors have a 190-degree wide angle viewer or window installed?**
- O O O Are door locks at least 40 inches from windows or are double cylinder deadbolt locks installed (check fire codes before installing double cylinder deadbolt locks)?**
- O O O Are exterior door strike plates secured to the door frame with at least 3 inch screws?**
- O O O If exterior doors open outward and have exposed hinges are the hinge pins secured in place to prevent easy removal?**
- O O O If your home has sliding glass doors are measures taken to prevent the door from being lifted and removed from its track?**
- O O O Have measures been taken to prevent sliding glass doors from being pried open by installing a “Charlie bar” or placement of a wooden dowel in the bottom track?**
- O O O Are exterior doors kept locked even when someone is at home?**
- O O O If you have an animal door can it be locked?**
- O O O Are vents, skylights, crawl spaces etc. secured?**

Locks

- Are door locks in good repair?
- Are keys removed from double cylinder deadbolts?
- If previously occupied, were the locks re-keyed when you moved in?
- Are the “throws” on exterior and garage doors at least 1” and do they fully insert into the strike plate?
- Do you know everyone who has a key to your home?
- Do you have a plan so as to avoid having to “hide” a key outside the house in the event you are locked out?

Windows

- Have secondary locks been installed on windows that open?
- Are windows covered with shades or a similar item when no one is home?
- Are window air conditioner units or those installed in walls grated or secured to prevent easy removal?
- If windows are opened are they secured to prevent the opening from exceeding 6 inches?

Alarms

- Does your home have an intrusion alarm system?
- Is the alarm system monitored by a professional company?
- Is everyone who has key access to the home been shown how to operate the alarm system?
- Does the system have battery back-up in case of a power failure?
- Does the alarm system have a cellular or radio back-up system in case of phone outage?

- O O O If you have an “Alert” alarm system do emergency personnel have access to a key lock box or contact person with a key in order to gain entry to the home?**

Interior

- O O O Have items of value been engraved with your Texas DL or ID number to help identify your property if it’s stolen?**
- O O O Have you recorded the make, model and serial number of items which have them?**
- O O O Have you video taped or photographed valuable items without serial numbers or which cannot be engraved?**
- O O O Do you have an inventory of all your valuable items?**
- O O O Have you removed name/address from your key ring in case it is lost or stolen?**
- O O O Do you store your valuable papers in a safe or safety deposit box?**
- O O O If you have a home safe is it secured to the house or sufficiently heavy to prevent easy removal?**
- O O O If you have firearms are they unloaded and safely stored, especially out of the reach of children?**
- O O O Is ammunition secured separately from firearms?**
- O O O Are spare keys to vehicles, house, etc. plainly visible to a guest, repairman or burglar?**
- O O O Are interior lights left on at night when the home is unoccupied?**

Child Safety At Home

- O O O Are prescription drugs, alcohol, medicines, vitamins, cleaning supplies matches and other dangerous products properly stored or locked up?**
- O O O Have you trained your children on how to handle someone at the door?**

- O O O Have children been provided with safe statements to say when someone is at the door?**
- O O O Do you have and practice a fire escape plan with children?**
- O O O Do you have smoke/carbon monoxide detectors installed and do they work?**
- O O O Is there responsible adult supervision for children when you are not home?**
- O O O Are 911 and other emergency contact numbers posted by the phone?**
- O O O Have your children been taught about STRANGERS?**
- O O O Do your children know the “Stop, Leave, Tell” rules if they find a firearm?**

Vacation/Away From Home

- O O O Do you arrange for a trusted friend/neighbor to watch and check your home when you are away?**
- O O O Do you stop mail/paper/package delivery or arrange for a trusted friend/neighbor to pick them up when you are away?**
- O O O Are arrangements made to have garbage cans put out and picked up while you are gone?**
- O O O Are arrangements made to have the lawn mowed while you are away?**
- O O O Do you use timing devices to turn lights on and off while you are away?**
- O O O Is the garage door opener deactivated while you are gone?**
- O O O Do you arrange for a neighbor to park a vehicle in the driveway while you are away?**
- O O O Is the ringer on the phone turned down or off while you are gone?**
- O O O Do you provide emergency contact information for friend or neighbor if they need to contact you while you are away?**

- O O O Do you avoid discussing your vacation/trip away from home with people if there is no reason for them to know?**

Miscellaneous

- O O O Are documents with personal information shredded before being placed in the recyclable bin or trash?**
- O O O Are birth certificates, SSAN cards, credit cards and the like stored in a safe and secure location (safety deposit box or home safe)?**
- O O O Do you retrieve your mail as soon as possible?**
- O O O Have you told your family members not to disturb anything and to call the police if they discover the home has been burglarized?**
- O O O Do you have your house/car key in your hand and ready when coming and going from home?**

The above checklist is not all encompassing, but is intended to assist you in assessing the security of your home and family.