

5 easy tips for better home security

Home security is essential but does not have to be complicated. Here are 5 easy tips on how to better protect your home and property.

How much home security do I need?

The answer depends on a number of factors, ranging from the level of your neighborhood's crime rate to how visible your home might be from the road.

The truth is: there is **no magic answer** to the question of how much security is enough.

But there are steps you can take now to dramatically increase your home's safety while making it less likely to be a target for thieves.

All homeowners face a number of important decisions to make when it comes to securing their personal property and protecting their family. According to the [latest statistics](#), a burglary occurs every 14.6 seconds in the United States.

But there is **good news**. You can better protect yourself and your loved ones in just **5 simple, easy, and relatively inexpensive ways**. The more you learn about how to better protect your personal property the faster you will begin enjoying more **peace of mind** even while away from home for extended periods of time.

5. Install an alarm system.

A home security system can be a relatively inexpensive investment when compared to the total value of the items in your home.

One favorite amongst **self-installed/DIY** alarm systems is [SimpliSafe](#). You purchase the pre-programmed equipment, which includes things like a keypad and motion sensors, and they're yours to keep. You simply pay for the monthly **24/7 monitoring** service and have the option of adding things like extra entryway sensors for a customized home security solution.

Professionally installed home security systems are available from well known providers, such as [ADT](#).

Don't forget, many insurance providers will offer **discounts up to 20% or more** off premiums to homeowners with home security systems installed. That means the savings in insurance premiums alone could offset the initial cost of the alarm system.

4. Lock the doors and windows.

As unbelievable as it may seem, many people assume they live in a safe "it could never happen here" type of neighborhood.

Or they may forget to lock every door AND window before heading off to work.

When faced with a decision on entering your home the easy way or the hard way, a burglar will most likely choose the easy way. **Don't make it easy to get robbed.**

3. Keep valuables out of sight.

Sure, that 60-inch flatscreen looks pretty amazing...**especially from the street.**

Your solution: simply move your valuables out of sight from ANY prying eyes from outside.

Or just keep the curtains closed.

2. Make it look like somebody's home.

Burglars like things the easy way...that's WHY they're burglars! If a home looks occupied, **thieves will move on until they find one that isn't.** Set a timer on a lamp is an old standby method that has been around for decades.

Consider upgrading to [FakeTV](#), a simple yet ingenious device which simulates the flickering of a TV inside to passersby outside.

1. Change the locks.

Your new home may be an easy target to any previous tenant who still has the keys or old access code. This is especially true in apartments.

Change the passcode if your entry system has a re-set option. It's also a smart investment to **change the locks** by contacting a reputable **licensed, bonded, and insured locksmith** or security professional.