



Handbook

Affordable Protection for Your Home

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Burglaries: Interesting facts

In general terms:

- a burglary means that your house was robbed while you were away
- a robbery occurs while you were home
- A home invasion is committed by entering or remaining unlawfully in an occupied dwelling with the intent to commit a crime against the person in the dwelling

A typical burglary takes between 8 and 12 minutes

65% of burglaries/robberies take place between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., and most between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Common points of entry

34% gain access through the front door

23% come through a first floor window

22% enter through the back door

9% come through the garage

12% find other access points

Only 13.6% of burglaries/robberies result in an arrest

Burglars do return to the same place (scene familiarity, expectation of new replacements for stolen goods)

Burglars tend to avoid homes with Security Systems

Sources: Statistics from SafeWise 2017 and 2018 based on nationwide data, internet research and Oakland Police Department

How burglars think

Is access easy?

- Burglars often select an unoccupied home with obviously easy access: No fences, unlocked doors or windows, easy escape routes
- Security statistics show that easily accessible homes are broken into by simple tools such as pliers, a screwdriver or a hammer
- Make sure you have strong locks on your doors—deadbolts that extend an inch and a half are preferred. Doorknob locks offer no security. Defeating these locks is one of the most common means of forced entry. Chains don't provide security either. Install single cylinder deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Bolts should have a minimum throw of 1 inch. Strike plates should have screws that are at least 3 inches long
- Burglars will often target second story doors and windows that are less likely to be battened down
- Keep the exterior of your home well lit at night-- whether home or away
- Beware of visitors posing as service personnel. Always ask for identification, then verify by calling their office to confirm
- Don't advertise you're on vacation through social media or by allowing piled up newspapers, an overflowing mailbox, or trash bins left out.
- Install a wide angle viewer ("peep hole") in the door
- In most cases dogs act as a psychological deterrent and can be an excellent supplement to a security system provided the animal can be relied upon to give warning when warning is needed. Dogs can scare a stranger away by either barking or looking fierce. But, remember that they can be lured away, poisoned, killed, or even stolen. Trained attack dogs are not recommended because the risk of liability to the owner is great should the dog attack an innocent person. Outside dogs should be kept in a fenced area with a good lock on the gate

"As your burglar, I want to thank you for this easy opportunity to ransack your home if you don't have your house properly secured."
--professional burglar

Is access visible?

- Burglars prefer shielded homes that are easy to sneak up on. High bushes around the front windows or doors make it easy to hide. Keep landscape trimmed so entry points are as visible as possible from the street
- Homes at the outskirts of neighborhoods are vulnerable, as are homes on dead-end streets and locations with few outlets. Homes at the corners are targeted by thieves who can more easily drive by unnoticed to observe your habits

"I can pick the best time of day, take my time, and search for anything of value. You probably won't be back for days to report the burglary so I have a greater window of time to safely sell your stuff."
--professional burglar

- Low traffic areas are also less visible to neighbors and the police

Are security features obvious?

- Burglars prefer homes with no security systems or surveillance cameras. Only pros are willing to steal with these features installed. Home security systems statistics show that most burglars first try to determine if the house has an alarm system. Audible alarms make most burglars flee
- Burglars who prefer working at night can be deterred by good lighting. Statistics show the odds of burglary decrease when homeowners install motion sensor lighting or turn on outside lights at home entry points
- Padlock your circuit breaker box to prevent lights from being turned off

Are valuable contents in clear view?

- Keep your electronic equipment, computers and jewelry out of sight. A large TV near the window without blinds or curtains is an open invitation. Jewelry and cash should be kept well hidden, and not in easy-to-find places like your bedroom

"If you don't upgrade your home security, I'll come back in a few months to pick-up the brand-new things you purchased to replace the stolen items."
--professional burglar

Are residents likely to be duped by fake solicitors?

- Know who's at your door before opening it. Check photo registration card before dealing with any solicitors, peddlers, interviewers, etc. These persons are required to obtain a permit from the City and display it on the front of their clothing. Check out the identification with the company or agency if you are suspicious. Each person must carry their own permit.
- According to Chapter 5.48 of the Oakland Municipal Code, if a resident has a "No Peddlers" or "No Solicitations" sign it is illegal for solicitors to ring or knock on your door, even with a permit. [Distributors of free printed matter or political canvassing are not subject to the permit rule.]
- If you do not feel safe answering the door, don't. Immediately call 911

Sources: Statistics from SafeWise 2017 and 2018 based on nationwide data, internet research and Oakland Police Department

Budget for your home protection

The budget for securing your home will depend on various factors such as the home's size, number of doors and windows, fencing, landscaping, existing lighting. The following figures are based on a recent security upgrade of a 4000 sq. ft. house, two stories with all windows on one side, 4 bedrooms and garage. Photos of the equipment are shown here.

Protection item	Costs
	*includes installation
Fence	wide choice
Video camera door opener	\$550*
Various regular lights and motion detector lights	\$600*
Steel grill for window in door at the side of the house	\$350*
Deadbolts in all (exterior-) doors 3x 50	\$150*
Steel plates 3x	\$325*
Door Armors 4x	\$450*
Indoor Security System	\$1500*
Two fobs for Indoor Security System	\$150
Outdoor Security System (excl. installation)	\$399
Total	\$4,474

Common security devices



Fencing is the first layer of protection. It includes a doorbell (center) with two-way sound and an electric door opener (right)



Good lighting surrounds the house, many with motion detectors and timers.



Eight cameras patrol the property. Some are paired with motion detector lights (left), some overlook the street (center). Another watches the front door (right).



Camera images are recorded 24/7, with 14-day storage (below) All images can be viewed simultaneously on the monitor (right).



Metal grate protects back door's glass (left). Deadbolts provide extra security (right).



Steel plates on door edges and door service bolts (right) prevent doors from being kicked in.



Door and window sensors (left), a motion sensor—pets ok (center) and a keypad (with remote controller) protect the inside.



Work with your neighbors

More eyeballs on the street is the best way to protect against crime.

- Know your neighbors, know who belongs in the area. Get active with your Montclair Organized Neighborhood
- Report suspicious behavior to one another on Nextdoor or through your immediate neighborhood's listserv, and to police if the suspects are still in the area
- Create or join a Neighborhood Watch group. Call (510) 238-3091 for more information

Report crimes and suspicious activity

Oakland Police resources are allocated according to crime reports and trends.

- If you see a crime in process, call **9-1-1**. If calling from a cell phone within Oakland, call **510-777-3211**. These are emergency-only numbers
- If you want to report criminal or suspicious activity that is not life-threatening or is after the fact, call **510-777-3333**. This is the Oakland Police Department non-emergency number
- If you see a crime in progress in an East Bay Regional Park, call **510-881-1121** for emergencies and **510-881-1833** for non-emergencies to get East Bay Regional Park police dispatch

Sources and Resources

Additional resources Get links to these site at our website: PiedmontPines.org, then click on Projects, then Crime Prevention

- Surveillance Systems Tool Kit, developed by Oakland Police Department's Merchant And Neighborhood Watch staffs. Though dated (2012), the kit includes lots of additional information on what to consider for a home security system.
- Crime mapping website. You can request crime data by proximity to an address
- Neighborhood Watch. Arrange crime prevention training for your neighborhood
- Personal Safety Plan. Develop a plan for when you're home or out and about
- Montclair Neighborhood Council. PPNA's sister association that takes the lead in Montclair on crime prevention.

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Department and an anonymous professional burglar

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