

Residential Security

Residential security is a critical component of any personal security program. The following guidelines should be used in reviewing your residential security.

- All entrances, including service doors and gates, should have quality locks--preferably deadbolt. Check your:
 - Front Door
 - Rear Door
 - Garage Door(s)
 - Service Door(s)
 - Patio Door
 - Sliding Glass Door
 - Gate
 - Swimming Pool Gate
 - Guest House Door(s).

- Don't leave keys "hidden" outside the home. Leave an extra key with a trusted neighbor or colleague.
- Keep doors locked even when you or family members are at home.
- Have window locks installed on all windows. Use them.
- Lock louvered windows--especially on the ground floor.
- Have locks installed on your fuse boxes and external power sources.
- If you have window grilles and bars, review fire safety. Don't block bedroom windows with permanent grilles if the windows may be used for emergency egress.
- If you have burglar or intrusion alarms, check and use them.
- Keep at least one fire extinguisher on each floor, and be sure to keep one in the kitchen. Show family members and household help how to use them.
- Periodically check smoke detectors and replace batteries when necessary.
- Keep flashlights in several areas in the house. Check the batteries often, especially if you have children in your home. (They love to play with flashlights!)
- A family dog can be a deterrent to criminals. But remember, even the best watch-dog can be controlled by food or poison. Do not install separate "doggy doors" or entrances. They also can admit small intruders.
- Choose a location that offers the most security. The less remote, the safer your home will be, particularly in a neighborhood close to police and fire protection.
- Know your neighbors. Develop a rapport with them and offer to keep an eye on each other's homes, especially during trips.
- If you observe any unusual activity, report it immediately to your RSO.
- Establish safe family living patterns. If you understand