

What is Target Hardening?

Simple techniques to help safeguard your home and make it less appealing to criminals.

Things to do outside

Lighting-use security lights or motion lights outside to illuminate your driveway, garage, yard. Criminals like darkness.

Landscaping-keeps bushes trimmed low so no one can hide behind them or plant shrubs with thorny leaves or spines.

Garage doors- keep them closed and keep toys, tools and valuable items put away when not in use.

Your address - house number should be legible from the street

Have **street lights** installed in your neighborhood

Your home itself:

- Keep your doors and windows locked even when you're home.
- Use deadbolt locks on doors with at least a 1" metal throw. Double cylinder deadbolts are best.
- Sliding glass doors should have either a lock-pin system or a stick or rod placed in the track to prevent entry.
- Windows should also have extra lock mechanisms on them besides the factory installed locks. This can be as simple as using a pin system so that the window cannot be opened unless the pin is removed from the inside.
- Advertise with stickers or signs if you have a burglar alarm, use Operation ID, have a dog, or are a member of a crime watch group.

When going away from home:

- Stop your mail and newspapers or have a neighbor pick them up daily.
- Make arrangements for someone to mow your grass.
- Have a neighbor park their car in your driveway periodically.
- Have an interior light on a timer.
- Leave a radio playing .
- Tell a trusted neighbor your are going away and when you will be back.
- Put your house on a residence check with the Sheriff's Office
- (704-920-3023).