

NATIONAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
WATCH  
PROGRAM

HOME  
SECURITY  
INSPECTION  
CHECKLIST



An important step in preventing home burglary and other crimes is to make sure that a residence is as secure as possible. A careful inspection by someone trained to observe security precautions can indicate features which would make entry easy — or difficult — for a prospective burglar.

Chances are good that home security can be improved. Take a hard look at entry points in your residence and determine what steps can reduce vulnerability.

A security inspection begins at the front door and goes on to include side and rear doors, windows, locks, lights, and landscaping. Checks in the orange column of this checklist indicate security weaknesses or hazards that require attention.

This survey may be used by law enforcement professionals or others trained in crime prevention. Neither the inspector, the local law enforcement agency, nor NSA have any liability to you other than to use our best judgment in this inspection and these recommendations.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to you in the community's fight against crime. We urge you not only to take steps to make your own residence safer, but also to become active in a Neighborhood Watch program for the benefit of your entire community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY CALL:

This form was produced and distributed by  
THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION  
in cooperation with your  
local law enforcement agency

## FRONT ENTRANCE

## RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS

- |   |                              |                              |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 2. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 3. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside?   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 4. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks?                                  | No <input type="checkbox"/>  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw?                                  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 6. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws?                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 7. If there are no windows in door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercom device?          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 8. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at doorway? | No <input type="checkbox"/>  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 10. Is exterior or front entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt light?                            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 11. Can front entrance be observed from street or public areas?                                     | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 12. Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from street or public areas?              | No <input type="checkbox"/>  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

## SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE

- |   |                              |                              |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 13. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction?                               | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 14. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 15. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside?                              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 16. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks?                   | No <input type="checkbox"/>  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw?                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| 18. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |

**SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS**

- 19. Can the lock mechanism be reached from outside through a delivery port or pet entrance? No  Yes
- 20. Is the exterior of the doorway lighted by at least a 40-watt bulb? Yes  No
- 21. Is doorway concealed from street or neighbors view by porch, fence, or landscaping? No  Yes
- 22. Does doorway have screen or storm door with adequate lock? Yes  No
- 23. If door is sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track? Yes  No
- 24. Is a "charley-bar" or key-operated lock used on sliding glass door? Yes  No

**ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT**

- 25. Are all entrances to living quarters from garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction? Yes  No
- 26. Does door from garage to living quarters have locks adequate for exterior entrance? Yes  No
- 27. Does door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from living quarters side? Yes  No

**GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS**

- 28. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? Yes  No
- 29. Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside? Yes  No
- 30. Do any windows open onto areas that offer special risk to burglary? No  Yes
- 31. If so, do these windows have security screens or grills? Yes  No
- 32. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping? Yes  No
- 33. Is exterior adequately lighted at all window areas? Yes  No

## UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS

34. Do any upper floor windows open onto porch or garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings? No  Yes
35. If so, are they secured as adequately as if they were at ground level? Yes  No
36. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows? Yes  No
37. Are ladders kept outside the house where they are accessible? No  Yes

## BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS

38. Is there a door from outside to the basement? No  Yes
39. If so, is that door adequately secured for an exterior door? Yes  No
40. Is outside basement entrance lighted by exterior light of at least 40 watts? Yes  No
41. Is outside basement door concealed from street or neighbors? No  Yes
42. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance? Yes  No

## GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS

43. Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device? Yes  No
44. Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times? Yes  No
45. Are garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows? Yes  No
46. Is outside utility entrance to garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance? Yes  No
47. Are tools, ladders and other equipment kept in garage? Yes  No
48. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-watt bulb? Yes  No

## RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS