



## **Check the locks**

- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough.
- Sliding glass doors can offer easy access if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by installing commercially available locks or putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door. To prevent the door being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the slide door frame and the fixed frame. Then insert a pin in the hole.
- Lock double-hung windows with key locks or "pin" your windows by drilling a small hole into a 45 degree angle between the inner and outer frames, then insert a nail that can be removed. Secure basement windows with grilles or grates.
- When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks.

## **Check the doors**

- A lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car door but leaving the window down.
- All outside doors should be metal or solid wood.
- Install a peephole or wide angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and don't keep out intruders.

## **Check the outside**

- Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on at night.
- If you travel, create the illusion that you're at home by getting some timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house.

Make a list of your valuables - VCRs, stereos, computers, jewelry. Take photos of the items, list their serial numbers and description.

## **Consider an Alarm**

- Alarms can be a good investment, especially if you have many valuables in your home, or live in an isolated area or one with a history of break-ins.

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Information provided by the Community Services Division of the Baton Rouge Police Department. For more information or to schedule a crime prevention presentation for your civic group or business call our office at 225-389-4801