

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

■ When not at home, make it look like you are. Leave curtains open a bit in front of the house, but keep them closed in back (where a burglar could look in unobserved by neighbors).

■ When out of town, have a neighbor pick up your mail and deliveries daily and park a car in your driveway occasionally. Have them put your trash bin away.

■ If you have an alarm system or dog, post signs warning of their presence.

■ Big dogs are good deterrents, but even a small, noisy one may help.

■ Dog doors are bad for security – a burglar or child accomplice can squeeze in and unlock doors.



Include TV and Radio

■ Use timers on some inside lights (leaving them on constantly can signal that you're not home).

■ Don't hide house keys in obvious places near the door, like the doormat or flower pot.

■ Keep shrubs trimmed and low near windows and doors.

■ Form a Neighborhood Watch group (call 924-3600 at Albuquerque Police Dept. for help). Get to know your neighbors and talk to them. If they know you're not moving, they'll be able to respond when they see someone loading your furniture. Give neighbors your home and work numbers.

■ Keep infrequently used valuables in a bank safety deposit box.

■ If you have a home safe, bolt it down.

■ Lock gates to back yard with a chain or cable and good quality padlocks.

■ Some lock companies sell security packages that include changing locks and fortifying entrances. Call them for details.

KEEPING THE BURGLARS AT BAY

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A BREAK-IN JUST TOO MUCH TROUBLE

ALARM SYSTEMS

■ An alarm system can be a very effective deterrent. **Call APD Alarm Ordinance @ 768-2059**

■ In Albuquerque you must have a permit from APD for an alarm.

■ Most do-it-yourself units are battery-operated wireless systems with a control box and siren, and several perimeter sensors for doors and windows that will transmit a signal to the control box and alarm when the opening is breached.

■ The most effective systems are not just audible alarms, but automatically contact an answering station whose personnel then report to police. They are installed professionally and usually connect the perimeter by wire to a central controller. The alarm may include one or more area sensors that monitor interior spaces in case the intruder gets past the perimeter. Pick a licensed installer with a good reputation and references.

■ If you buy a house with an existing alarm system, re-code the system.

GARAGE

■ The garage is a good entry point for burglars, who can close the door and take their time getting into the house. Keep the door closed completely and locked, even when you're home.

■ Install a motion detector floodlight above the garage door. It will help as you drive in at night, as well as alert you to prowlers when you're home.



■ If your car is parked in the driveway, lock it and take the garage door opener in the house.



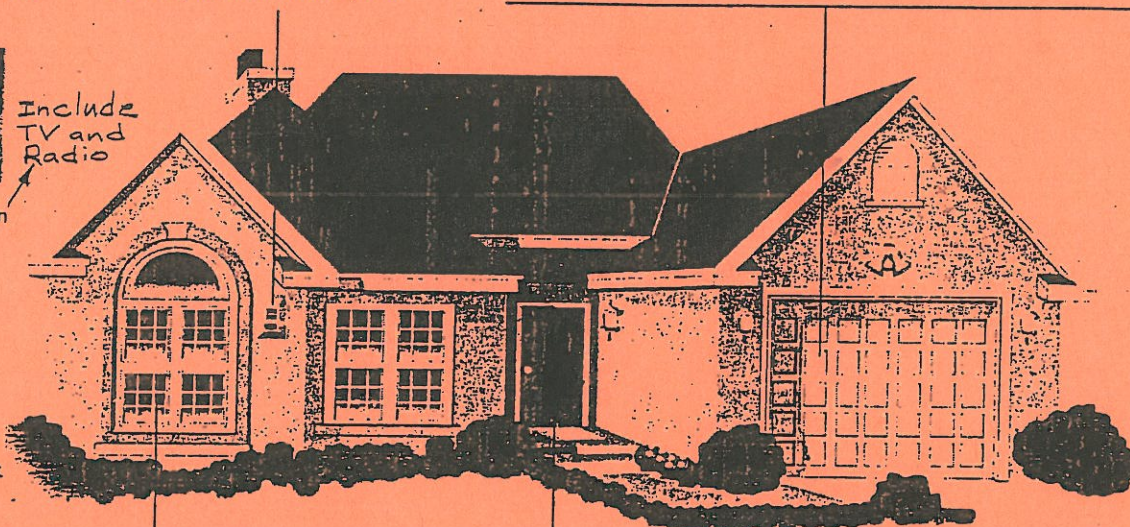
■ Reset the code on your door opener to thwart "master" openers.

■ When out of town, unplug the opener mechanism inside the garage. Put a hasped lock with padlock on the inside of the door at the top, or C-clamps on the side tracks.

■ If you have a manual garage door, add a padlock on the inside.

■ If there is a separate door from the yard to the garage, use a solid-core door with deadbolts.

■ The door from the garage to the house should also be a strong, secure door. Keep it locked.



WINDOWS

■ Wrought-iron security bars can discourage burglars. They must conform to the state building code in having one releasable unit per bedroom for fire exit. Teach your kids how to use them.

■ If purchasing new windows, sliders should have two locks and should fit tight in their tracks (no wobble).

■ Don't leave windows open when gone.

■ If you must leave a window cracked, purchase hardware or install a bolt in the bottom track to keep the window from opening more than 4 inches.

■ Double-hung wood windows: You can drill a hole through the top of the bottom sash and partway into the top sash where they come together and screw in an eyebolt as an extra lock.

■ Old steel casement windows are less secure, but you can purchase locks that will help.

EXTERIOR DOORS

■ Must be solid-core wood or metal. Hollow-core doors are easy to kick in.

■ Use good quality deadbolt locks with a 1-inch throw. A metal reinforcement piece that fits around the lock area also helps. A single cylinder lock with thumb turn on the inside is OK, but if there is glass adjacent to the door, use a double-cylinder lock (requires a key from outside or inside) to prevent burglar from breaking window and letting himself in. Some more expensive high-security locks are made to be resistant to tampering and use keys that are difficult to duplicate.

■ Strike plates and hinges: the door jamb is a weak spot. Use reinforced



Strike plates

strike plates and replace all screws (on hinges also) with 3- or 4-inch wood screws. This fastens the hardware through the jamb into the studs.

On older houses, make sure the door hinges are not on the outside of the jamb, where the pins can be easily removed by burglars.

■ Always change the locks on doors when you buy a pre-owned house.

PATIO DOOR

■ Sliding glass doors are very vulnerable and easy to jimmy out of their tracks. If there is play (up and down wobble room), drill holes through the upper track and insert flat-head screws that allow the door to slide open but not shift up and down. (This also helps older

sliding windows).

■ Use a "Charlie Bar" reinforcer or a broom handle in the bottom track as a second lock. Other hardware is available, such as patio door pins that hold the moving door to the fixed door.

APDCrime Prevention

924.3600