

NEWARK POLICE DIVISION
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY AND SAFETY SURVEY

The following categories are guidelines to use to insure a safe home environment. Go through this checklist and ask yourself whether your home is in compliance with these measures. If you have any questions regarding a block where you checked “no” for an answer, you may call the Newark Police Division for suggestions on how to make improvements.

DOORS/LOCKS

YES NO

___ ___ Do all of your exterior doors have good quality deadbolt locks with no less than a 1” throw?

___ ___ Are all of your latch-strike plates on your exterior doors secured with at least 3” screws?

___ ___ Do your exterior doors having glass within 3 feet of the lock have double-cylinder deadbolt locks installed on them?

___ ___ Do all of your exterior doors without glass have a wide-angle door-viewer installed for identifying visitors?

___ ___ Do all of your exterior doors without glass have a wide-angle door-viewer installed at a child’s level if children live in the home?

___ ___ Are all exterior doors constructed of solid wood?

___ ___ Is your front entrance lit well enough to enable you to identify visitors at night?

___ ___ Did you change locks when you first moved into your home?

___ ___ Do you always lock all your doors when you are home for the night or when you leave your residence?

___ ___ If you have an overhead garage door equipped with an automatic opener, does it use a “rolling code” to foil “code grabbers?”

___ ___ If your overhead door is not equipped with an automatic opener, does it have good quality padlocks installed on both sides of the door?

___ ___ Do you always close your overhead garage door, even when you are at home?

___ ___ Does your door leading from your garage have a good quality deadbolt installed?

YES NO

___ ___ Do you use these deadbolts on a regular basis?

___ ___ Do all of your sliding glass doors have at least one of the following? Track lock, insertion pin lock, hinged door bar, metal or wooden dowel in track?

___ ___ Do your auxiliary locks prevent the door from being lifted out of its track?

WINDOWS

___ ___ Do you check to make sure all windows are locked before you leave your home?

___ ___ Do you have good quality locks on all of your exterior windows?

___ ___ Are all of your exterior windows in plain sight and not hidden by shrubbery or trees that provide easy cover for a burglar to hide while forcing open the window?

___ ___ Do you make sure nothing is left laying around your home that would provide easy access to second floor windows, such as ladders?

___ ___ If you have an alarm system installed, do all of you exterior windows have contacts?

LIGHTING

___ ___ Do you keep a sufficient number of interior lights burning after hours to discourage burglars?

___ ___ Do you have exterior floodlights or similar lighting illuminating all sides of your home at night?

___ ___ Do you have flashlights and fresh batteries available in case of electrical failures?

___ ___ Do you have battery operated emergency exit lights installed above all exterior doors on the inside of the building?

___ ___ Do motion sensors control your exterior lighting?

SMOKE/BURGLAR ALARMS

___ ___ Do you have a smoke alarm in each of the following areas? Hallways near bedrooms, near the family room and kitchen, top of any stairway, basement, and in the garage?

YES NO

- ___ ___ Do you have a carbon monoxide detector in the house near the bedrooms and in the basement near the furnace?
- ___ ___ Do you replace the batteries in each of your smoke alarms on a regular basis?
- ___ ___ Do you test each of your smoke alarms on a regular basis?
- ___ ___ Do you have a quality burglar alarm system with a reputable company?
- ___ ___ Has your alarm company been instructed to notify the police before they call a contact person?
- ___ ___ Do you test your alarm system on a regular basis?

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- ___ ___ Do you have at least one fire extinguisher in your home?
- ___ ___ Do you and your family members know where the fire extinguisher is kept?
- ___ ___ Has everyone in the home learned how to operate the fire extinguisher?
- ___ ___ Do you check the expiration date of the fire extinguishers on a regular basis?

TELEPHONES

- ___ ___ Do you have at least one telephone installed on every floor in case of an emergency?
- ___ ___ Do you have "Caller ID" installed for obscene calls?
- ___ ___ Do you have emergency numbers to police, fire, and gas and electric (other than 911) near every telephone?
- ___ ___ Do you have a cellular telephone available in case of an emergency such a power outage or intention cutting of telephone lines?
- ___ ___ Does your telephone answering machine announce, "Sorry we're not home to take your call right now"?

EMERGENCY PLANS

- ___ ___ Do you have an evacuation plan established in case of a fire or other emergency?

YES NO

- ___ ___ Are all residents aware of this plan?
- ___ ___ Have you established the best location to go to within the home in the event of a tornado or serious storm?
- ___ ___ Do you have a plan established to assist handicapped people in the event of an emergency of any type?

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

- ___ ___ Have you photographed all possessions including computers, furniture, pictures, jewelry, guns, etc. maintained on the premises?
- ___ ___ Have you recorded the make, model, and serial numbers of these items?
- ___ ___ Have you permanently marked all equipment that does not have a serial number?
- ___ ___ Have you made a duplicate copy of your inventory of possessions and do you maintain a copy off premises in the event of a burglary or fire?
- ___ ___ Do you keep valuables, such as money, checks, jewelry, insurance papers, passports, and wills in a locked fireproof safe?

LANDSCAPING/EXTERIOR AREAS

- ___ ___ Do you keep all gates on fences locked with a quality outdoor lock?
- ___ ___ Have you trimmed all bushes and shrubs to provide visibility to all windows and to prevent people from hiding nears doors and windows?
- ___ ___ Have you cut back all branches from trees that might provide easy access to second floor windows?
- ___ ___ Do you keep all outside home equipment (lawnmowers, bicycles, ladders, etc.) secured in a fenced-in area or locked storage shed or chained to a fixed, immovable object?
- ___ ___ If you have a pool, are all exterior doors leading to your pool area equipped with a specific door alarm that alerts when someone has exited without using a bypass/reset?
- ___ ___ If your pool area has a secondary fence, are the gates secured with a gate lock or auxiliary padlock?
- ___ ___ Is your pool area or property line surrounded by at least a six foot high fence?

YES NO

___ ___ Do you keep all gates on fences locked with a quality outdoor lock?

___ ___ Is your address clearly visible from the street in the event emergency people need to find you quickly?

PERSONAL SAFETY

___ ___ Do you keep all guns safely stored in a locked box, safe, or vault?

___ ___ Are all guns stored separately from the ammunition?

___ ___ Are all guns intended for home protection equipped with a trigger guard lock?

___ ___ Have all members of your household been trained to treat every gun as though it were loaded?

___ ___ Do you leave house keys hidden outside?