

Burglary

By far, the most common threat to a household is burglary. Statistics tell us that more than 30% of all burglars gain access through an open door or window. Ordinary household tools like screwdrivers, channel-lock pliers, small pry bars, and small hammers are most often used by burglars. The burglar's selection process is simple: choose an unoccupied house with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes.

Here is a list of suggestions to minimize your risk by making your home unattractive to potential burglars.

- **Doors should fit tightly into the door jamb**
- **Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a one-inch bolt**
- **Use a quality, heavy-duty, door knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism**
- **Use a heavy-duty four-screw strike plate installed with 3-inch screws to penetrate into a wooden door frame**
- **Use a wide-angle 160° peephole mounted no higher than 58 inches**
- **Invest in a security system and alarm**

Sliding Windows

- **Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices**
- **Block accessible windows open no more than 6 inches for ventilation**
- **Use anti-lift devices to prevent a window from being lifted out**

Sliding Glass Doors

- **Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors. (A wooden dowel placed into the track prevents and limits door movement.)**
- **Keep the latch mechanism and door rollers in good condition and properly adjusted**
- **Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins**
- **Use visible alarm decals, beware of dog decals, or block watch decal, if applicable**

Car Burglaries

- **Keep your car doors locked; park in a well lit and populated area**
- **Never keep anything of value in your car; not even a purse for 2 minutes while you drop your kid off at daycare**
- **If you have a GPS place it in the glove box or take it inside with you; take down the mount for the GPS from the window. The burglars are looking for the mount only, with the thought the GPS is hidden somewhere inside.**
- **Do not keep change, sunglasses, or cds in view**
- **If you have people over to your house for a gathering, tell them not to leave valuables in their car**

After putting your new sticker on your license plate, take a blade and cut the sticker in several directions. By doing this, you will render the sticker useless. If a thief tries to remove it, the sticker will come off in many tiny pieces or strips.

Your Personal Safety

- Always be alert and aware of the people around you, especially if you are alone or it is dark. Walk confidently, and at a steady pace.
- When walking to your car, have your keys ready so you will spend as little time as possible in the open. About 30 feet away from your vehicle, glance underneath it and at adjacent vehicles.
- As you approach your car, be aware of other people around. If you see someone loitering near your car, do not go to it; instead, walk to an area where there are other people.
- Before you enter your car, make sure that no intruder is in the car waiting for you. Check the back seat of your vehicle before you enter your vehicle
- Avoid parking beside high-profile vehicles: trucks, trucks with campers, and vans.
- If you are being harassed, loudly say, "Leave me alone!" If that doesn't stop the harassment, continue to attract people's attention. If you are confronted, give up your valuables. Nothing is as important as your life.
- Try to stay out of arm's reach of the attacker. Don't let the attacker move you into an alley or car. Your best defense if the attacker persists is to yell and run.

The use of alcohol and drugs is often related to violent incidents and sexual assault. Use alcohol responsibly. If you are in a situation where people are abusing alcohol and drugs, you may be in danger and should exercise caution.

Your home is the only environment where you have control over who can get close to you or your family. Protecting your home and family from criminal intrusion should be high on your list of priorities.

Basic Security Tips

- Keep all doors locked; use the door peephole BEFORE opening the door
- Use your porch and outdoor lights to help to see clearly outside
- Never rely on a chain-latch as a barrier to a partially opened the door
- Never open the door to strangers or solicitors
- Call the police if a stranger acts suspicious
- Alert your neighbors to suspicious solicitors
- Hold a family meeting to discuss home security plans

Lighting

Good lighting is definitely a deterrent to criminals because they don't want to be seen or identified.

- Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy; use timers to activate the radio or television while away
- Exterior lighting should allow 100 foot visibility; use good lighting along the pathway and at your door
- Use light timers or photo-cells to turn on/off lights automatically
- Use infra-red motion sensor lights for the back door of townhouses/apartments

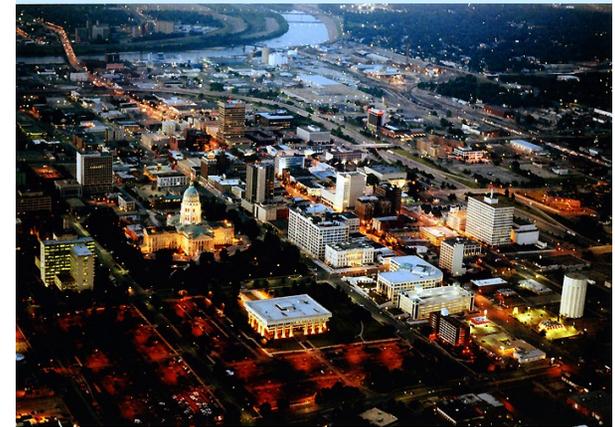
Be A Good Neighbor

Get to know your neighbors on each side of your house and those directly across from you. Good neighbors will watch out for your house and vehicle when you are away, if you ask them.

The greatest difficulty in getting to this level of oversight is taking the first step:

- **Get to know the names of your adjacent neighbors**
- **Invite them into your home and establish trust**
- **Agree to watch out for each other**
- **Do small tasks for each other to improve territoriality**
- **Return the favor and communicate often**

A Safe Topeka Community Starts with YOU!



Topeka Police Department

Emergency: Dial 911
Non-Emergency: 368-9200
Crime Stoppers: 234-0007