

5/16/2018

Northbrook Homeowners,

-Home Security Tips from Northbrook Property Owners Association

I want to share some basic & advance home security tips & recommendation to better secure your homes this summer with consideration to the typical seasonal crime activity. You may also follow crime prevention protocols as posted on our website: <http://www.northbrookpoa.com/Security.htm>

- I. Security systems
 - II. Surveillance systems
 - III. Driveway alerts
 - IV. Securing doors & window
 - a. Deadbolts
 - b. Door hardware upgrades
 - c. Sliding glass door securing
 - d. Window securing
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- I. Security monitoring systems is one of the most important features you can add to a home. In some cases it will discourage most would be burglars, and for the ones who still decide to break-in will spend less time in your home. Monitoring system can be a costly monthly charge but I've found you can have existing equipment monitored through alternative companies such as Alarm Relay (so long as you aren't in a contract); look them up at www.alarmrelay.com for an affordable solution where you only pay \$120 per year for the monitoring service! They can support/monitor mostly every existing system around.
 - II. * Surveillance system are also very helpful and can be monitored 24/7 by yourself or a security type provider such as Comcast & others. Systems have become a lot more affordable in recent years and you can find HD camera system bundles for around \$370 for DVR, hard drive, 8 IR cameras, and all the cables. Installation of the cables can be done by homeowner or simply pay someone to run them for you. I have techs who are willing to install cables for around \$40-50 per cable depending on 1st or 2nd floor layout. Typical cost for setting up DVR to view online is between 50-\$150; dependent of how many features you would like to add. <https://www.ebay.com/itm/Q-SEE-8-Channel-DVR-1TB-Security-System-With-8-Outdoor-Cameras-1080P-HD-2MP/401419926490?hash=item5d767dfbda:g:JJIAOSwbihZ2l7d> You can also setup the DVR to view from smart phones & email you images of motion at any selected camera of interest. Consider if it doesn't stop the perpetrator(s) you would have valuable evidence to prosecute offender once they are captured. Sometimes it is also valuable resource to provide evidence of crime which may occur against your neighbors.
 - Ring doorbell from \$200. https://www.amazon.com/Ring-8VR1S7-0EU0-Video-Doorbell-2/dp/B072QLXK2T/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?ie=UTF8&qid=1526499020&sr=8-1-spons&keywords=ring+doorbell&psc=1
 - YI Dome 1080p camera. Very easy to setup and view remotely. Will also give you text message alerts for motion similar to ring, and you can also hear & talk thru it. https://www.amazon.com/YI-Wireless-Security-Surveillance-Tracking/dp/B01CW4BLG8/ref=sr_1_5?s=hi&ie=UTF8&qid=1526499076&sr=1-5&keywords=yi+home+1080&dpID=415JFAW8vtL&preST=_SY300_QL70_&dpSrc=srch
 - III. Driveway alerts are a wireless device that cost only \$14. It detects heat motion and send brief alarm chime to inside your home. It takes the guessing game out of wondering if someone is in or around your cars in your driveway day & night. <http://www.harborfreight.com/wireless-driveway-alert-system-93068.html>
 - IV. Securing Doors & Window; make it hard for burglars to enter your home! Consider the following modification/features to you doors and window to make it harder for bad people to enter your home!

- a) Use deadbolts on every external door which requires a key to open from both inside and out. When you leave home don't keep keys in the deadbolt but always leave in when you're home.
- b) **Door Hardware upgrades:** Use longer screws in striker plate for entry doors. The screws have to be long enough to go through door frame and into the building frame/stud & deep enough to make it very durable. Standard screw sizes don't allow any durability and can be easily kicked in. The idea is to make it harder for someone to kick in a door.

Before (security level 1): Not strong enough to prevent someone from breaking your door open with foot or shoulder.



After (security level 2): It can sustain significant force with multiple kicks and/or shoulder lunges.



Adding Dead Bolt security plate to make door stronger around deadbolt (Add to achieve security level 3):



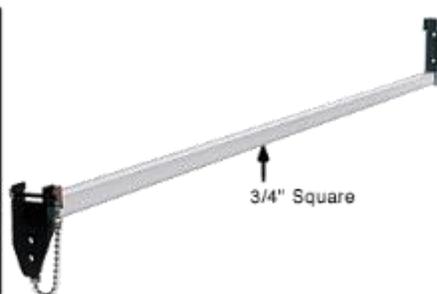
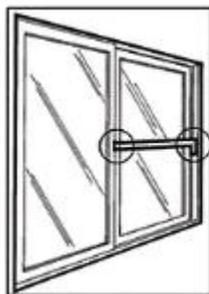
Level 5 without having an iron door would be Door Armor Max, and I highly recommend this system for \$65! If you are tool & carpenter savvy then you could do this install by yourself. It's guaranteed to keep anyone from kicking down your door, so check it out on youtube, see to believe.

- <https://www.ebay.com/itm/DOOR-JAMB-ARMOR-SET-EZA-20000-EZ-Armor-Door-Security-and-Repair/331339190418?hash=item4d255ad092>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa013emj4Po>

- Another Level 5 would require installation of iron door which mounts to the external portion with outward swing, but would necessarily make the doorway too appealing.



c. **Sliding glass doors** are one of the weakest links with regards to external doors & security unless they have some type of internal framing. Most of the time a burglar will try to shim the lock and if unsuccessful will resort to smashing glass. Once glass is broken it falls out. The best you can do for these doors is make sure they are secure with bar or some other method to act as deterrent or at the very least slow them down.



d. Window security.

Securing your windows is simple and affordable. You want to make it difficult for burglars to simply shim the lock, pry the window open, or break the glass nearest the window lock to open frame. If you make it in such a way where they have to climb through broken glass & will be less likely to enter through the window. Criminals almost always prefer the path of least resistance and prefer to not make a lot of noise. Also consider a standard method of installation as to make it familiar in case you or anyone else ever need to exit home for any emergency situation.

WINDOW HARDWARE OPTIONS:

Sliding window lock



Vertical window lock options.



I hope you find these tips helpful and easy to implement, and consider it precautionary measure to keep your home & family safe.

Thank you,

Nathan Moore NPOA President 2018