



## Community Resources Team Crime Prevention Alert

12-01

# Residential Burglary Prevention

Residential burglary is one of the most frequently reported crimes. It is also one of the most preventable. Locking your windows and doors, installing high security locks, and establishing good security lighting, is the easiest and most cost-effective way to prevent burglary. Here are several additional recommendations to assist in “target hardening” your home, and making it less attractive to a criminal:

- Sliding glass doors tend to be an easy point of entry. Special locks and bars are available to prevent lifting and prying of the active door.
- All exterior doors should be equipped with deadbolt locks. If the door is equipped with a window which is less than 40” away from the lock, a double-cylinder deadbolt lock is recommended.
- Landscaping should be trimmed so criminals cannot use it for concealment.
- Arrange landscaping/plants to allow for “natural surveillance” of your property. Avoid blocking windows and entrance doors from the view of pedestrians, motorists, and police.
- Illuminate the exterior of the home at night. Position lights to avoid glare, shadows, and blind spots. Consider motion sensor (demand lighting, timers) or photo sensor lights.
- The door frame is often referred to as the door jamb, and it is inherently weak. In most cases the frame is the weakest component of the door assembly. Adequately anchor the strike plate to the framing of the house by using 3” long screws.
- Exterior doors that open outward, have exposed hinges. Doors can be removed by removing the hinge pins. “Pinning” can be accomplished by removing two screws opposite each other, and installing pins in place of the screws. This will prevent the door from being removed.
- Security surveys are a “free” service to all Baltimore County residents and business owners. Community Outreach Team officers will emphasize “target hardening” as a crime prevention tool.

Any questions or concerns about this document should be directed to the Baltimore County Police Department’s Community Resources Team, Officer Bryan Dietsch @ 410-887-5901.