



**7 ways to stop
burglars from
choosing your
property**

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Introduction

Burglars aren't fussy where they break into. They look for the easy options.

The advice in this report is based on two principles:

- Making your property look less appealing to burglars
- Make your property look harder to break into.

1. "Think like a burglar"

Here's a surprisingly effective way of spotting the vulnerabilities in your property's security:

Lock yourself out of your property, then think about how you'd break in.

Faced with this challenge, you'll start to think creatively about how a burglar might gain entry. You may spot open windows. You may see walls and trash cans as being props for gaining entry. If it's dark, you may notice that certain areas of the property are unlit. You may even notice access points that you had forgotten existed!

Burglars look for the weak link—the "chink in your property's armor." By simply spending five minutes looking at your property from a burglar's point of view, you can identify your property's weak spots.

2. When you go away for a few days, don't leave clues

If you'll be away from your property for a few days, cancel any deliveries (such as newspapers). Also, ask a neighbor to push in any other mail such as free newspapers and leaflets. If you have a porch, ask them to collect mail so it is not visible from outside.

Lights on timers can give the illusion that someone is in the property.

3. Safe havens

Are there any parts of your property that could allow an intruder to work undetected? For example, ensure that a garage is fitted with secure locks, and that any door leading from the garage is particularly secure. Electronically protected up-and-over garage doors can provide good security.

Also, be aware that high hedges and bushes can screen a burglar from the road or from neighbors.

4. Sheds

Make sure sheds are securely padlocked—and possibly alarmed. Tools in the shed could be used against you: for example, a hammer could be used to break glass, or a spade could be used to lever open a window.

5. Keep ladders locked away

In part 1, we discussed how a burglar could use nearby items as props. Ladders are particularly useful to burglars, so make sure you keep yours locked up. If a ladder must be stored outside, padlock it to the wall with special brackets.

6. Accessible windows

Burglars hate broken glass. Although they often gain entry via a window, they usually do so by breaking the glass then opening the window using the handle. Fit locks to all windows, especially those with easy access—for example, ones that are near flat roofs—or that could be accessed by climbing a drain pipe.



7. Security lights

Motion-sensitive security lights can be very effective when placed above entry points such as rear doors. In fact, a light above your front door can allow you to see who's calling at night. Ensure the lights are well out of reach of intruders.

8. Keys

A key is the easiest way to get into a house, so never leave keys in locks—which would allow burglars to break through a glass pane and open the lock using the key. Also, don't leave keys under mats or hanging inside the letterbox.

Finally, don't have your name and address on your keychain. If you were to lose your keys, you'd have to change all of your locks. If you do lose your keys and you receive a phone call from someone who has found them, be particularly wary—they may be luring you away from your property so they can break in.

What next?

If you decide you want to protect your property with a SimpliSafe alarm, just visit **www.simplisafe.com**—or call us at 1-888-957-4675.



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