

Residential Burglary Prevention Tips

- Have a home alarm installed. If you have a home alarm, ensure that it is being monitored by a reputable company.
- When you leave your residence make sure you set the alarm. If you don't use it, it can't help you.
- Have motion sensors installed in all bottom floor rooms. Door and window contact switches on all outer doors and windows as well as glass break sensors throughout.
- On your alarm call out list, place the Harris County Sheriff's Office first on the list. This will ensure a rapid response from the Sheriff's Office instead of being the last to be called wasting time a criminal could be apprehended. If you have any firearms in the residence make sure the alarm company is aware so that they may notify the responding Deputy.
- Know your neighbors, if you know your neighbors are not home and observe anyone you know not to reside at the residence, call the Harris County Sheriff's Office. The dispatch number is 713-221-6000.
- Ensure all window locks work properly, if not the local hardware store has window "C" clamps that lock on to the inside window groove to prevent the window from being slid open.
- Back window burglar bars are a good deterrent. Some companies have bars that are installed in the window frame behind the window glass. This type installation will not detract from the beauty of your residence.
- Do not place locks on your back yard gates. Removing the locks ensures the entire perimeter of the residence is checked, also if a criminal is present he will be seen. At the very least any possible damage to your residence will be observed and you will be contacted through your alarm company.
- Write down all serial numbers and model numbers of all your valuables, e.g. televisions, stereos, gaming equipment, firearms, etc..... Keep the list in a safe place. Have these items engraved with your driver's license number, so that if found they can be returned to you and possible charges can be filed on the person found in possession of the item.
- In regards to vehicle burglary, do not leave anything of value unattended inside the vehicle, e.g. purses, check books, wallets, etc.....Lock the vehicle.

If you observe a criminal act being committed do not take any action other than calling the Sheriff's Office immediately. Make sure you get a good description of the suspect, i.e. clothing, height, weight, race, hair color and any vehicle description to include color, make, model and most important the license plate number.

For a FREE home security inspection, contact the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Community Services Division at 713-759-9454. It may qualify you for a home insurance discount, depending on your provider.