

## Respecting one-another in a safe Neighbourhood Home Security Periodic Survey

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**Tanglewood-Hillsdale Community Association's Neighbourhood Watch**<sup>1</sup> reminds current and new residents that we live in a relative enclosed neighbourhood with two vehicular entrances. The crime rates can be found on our website. Also found there is a blog that provides periodic updates from the community policing unit for our area. You can subscribe to them though visiting our Watch blog.

Armed with a little knowledge, you can establish personalized security routines that will give you peace of mind without costing a great deal. Core to this is ongoing vigilance, and periodic review of a checklist resembling what is included.

A combination of measures cover many circumstances. Spaces on the checklist are left for own additions. It is downloadable, so please do, so that you can modify it to make it your own.

1. Deter: Make the intruder think he will be caught if he attempts enter.
2. Increase the time it takes to enter.
3. Or, catch the intruder.

Visual deterrents make the intruder think that your house is difficult to enter and thus the risk of capture too high for him to attempt an invasion. They are things that can be seen from the street or as a intruder approaches your home. The visual deterrents you use will depend on your needs and preferences, but because they are so affordable and easy to implement, many people choose to incorporate several forms into their approach to security.

If visual deterrents fail to protect your home, physical deterrents take over. Time is the enemy for break and enter prowler: they need to get in and out of your house quickly.

Physical deterrents make entering your home physically difficult; increasing the time it takes to commit a burglary to such an extent that the burglar will eventually give up – or be caught. The type of physical deterrents you will need can be determined by taking a good look around your property.

Designing a security measures that incorporates all three of these elements will ensure that you will have peace of mind whether you are at home or on vacation.

This survey is to help you identify security problems in Your Home Check the boxes  needing attention.

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<sup>1</sup> Material for this factsheet was adapted from Neighbourhood Watch website, Ottawa Police website and the Federation of Calgary Federation of Community Associations' Building Safer Communities Website.

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Home Security Periodic Survey**

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• **Exterior of Your Home**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have a neighbour watch and alarm system decos at your points of entry?
- Do you have working exterior lighting at every door?
- Do motion sensors control your exterior lighting? Do light-bulbs work?
- Is you lamp post light working?
- Is shrubs kept low enough as not to provide a hiding place for an intruder?
- Are trees trimmed so that the low branches are above window level?
- Does your residence give the appearance that you are at home at all times, all seasons?
- Is your residence number visible from street?
- Can your mailbox be lock?
- Are blue, green, black boxes and garbage bens left on the street long after pick-up.
- Are storage sheds locked?
- Are bicycles, mowers, snowblower secured?
- Is your extension ladder secure and/or not visible?
- Are all second floor windows or doors locked and/or secured?
- Are other openings to such as skylights, crawl spaces and vents protected?

**Respecting one-another in a safe Neighbourhood  
Home Security Periodic Survey**

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- Are keys removed from your unlocked vehicle? Are vehicles locked?
- Do you have good lighting in your driveway and on paths leading to your entry doors?
- Are all gate hasps well below the top of the gate and secured by through-bolts with rounded edges and locked with a quality padlocks?
- Do you have a privacy fence?
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• **Interior of Your Home**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you check doors and windows each time you leave home to ensure they are locked?
- Do you keep your doors and windows locked when you are at home?
- When away from home do you leave your window shades or blinds closed?
- When away from home do you leave a radio on tuned to a talk only station?
- When your home is not occupied in the evening hours after dark, do you have lights that are controlled by timers?
- When you answer the door do you find out who is on the other side before you unlock or open it?
- Do you have call display on your telephone.
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- **Locks Used in Your Home**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Locks are the “first line of defense” against intruders. Assuming quality of door construction, no lock can make a house burglar proof, but can make a difference between the prowler considering your home easy or difficult to enter.

- Do you keep your doors locked at all times?
  
- Are all exterior doors solid wood or steel?
  
- Are entrance doors equipped with 1” good quality dead bolt locks?
  
- Do your doors have a wide-angle through door viewer?
  
- Do you have security strike plates that house and protect the bolt of the lock?
  
- Do you have a floor mounted door stop?
  
- Is the glass in the outside door at least 40” from the lock or unbreakable glass?
  
- Does your door fit snugly to the frame (within ¼”)?
  
- Do you have a patio door bar fastened into both the frame and the door to security lock on door.
  
- Have you re-keyed your locks since you moved in or if your keys have been lost?
  
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- **Windows Used in Your Home**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

## Respecting one-another in a safe Neighbourhood Home Security Periodic Survey

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Windows provide little security. Most window locks can be pried open. Windows can be lifted from their track with ease. Panes can be removed or broken.

- What sash and frames in a good condition?
- Are the locking mechanisms functioning and are they engaged?
- Are basement and ground floor windows shatter resistant?
- Are basement and ground floor windows fitted with security bars, security pins or security latches?
- Do you have window coverings on all windows to prevent outsiders from seeing in?
- If you have a window air conditioner, is it bolted to the wall to prevent easy removed from outside?
- Do metal windows have auxiliary locks?
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- **Your Garage**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Garages are favourite targets because they often contain other valuables, such as power tools and bicycles.

- Are garage doors closed tightly and locked when not in use?
- Does you automatic garage door opener use a “tolling code” system to prevent “code grabbing”?
- Is there a switch to shut off the automatic garage door?
- If the garage door is not equipped with an electronic opener, does it have heavy-duty padlocks installed on both sides of the door?

**Respecting one-another in a safe Neighbourhood  
Home Security Periodic Survey**

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- Does your overhead door have a track padlock for use while on vacation?
  
- Is the door between your house and attached garage a solid core door with a deadbolt lock?
  
- Can the garage lights be turned on from inside your house?
  
- Is their walk-in garage door. Is it secured with deadbolt lock?
  
- Do you have window security bars installed on any garage windows?
  
- Do you have window coverings on garage windows?
  
- Do you leave your garage door opener in a non-visible spot in your vehicle?
  
- Do you remove your keys from vehicles parked inside the garage even if the garage is locked?
  
- Do you remove all valuables from plain sight in your vehicle?
  
- Have you installed motion-sensitive lighting near your garage?
  
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