



# Crime Prevention Tips

*The following information is presented in a pamphlet entitled 'Home Security—Invest in It Now,' prepared by the National Crime Prevention Council.*

## Check Your Locks

*In almost half of all completed residential burglaries, thieves gain access through unlocked doors and windows.*

- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough.
- Secure sliding glass doors by installing commercially available locks or putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door. To prevent the door from being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame, then insert a pin or nail in the hole.
- Lock double-hung windows with key locks or "pin" lock by drilling a small hole at a 45° angle between the inner and outer frames, then insert a nail that can be removed.
- Instead of hiding keys around the outside of your home, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- When moving into a new home, re-key or change the locks.

## Check Your Doors

*A lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car but leaving the window down.*

- All outside doors should be metal or solid wood.

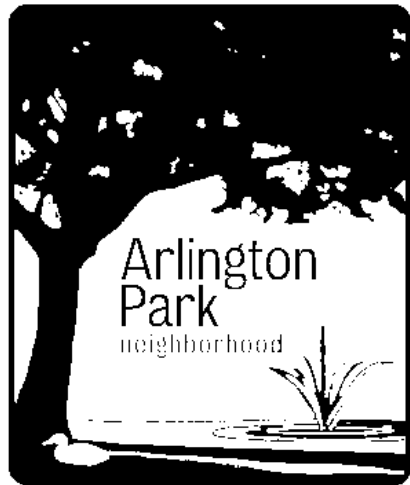
- If your doors don't fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them.
- Install a peephole or wide angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and don't keep out intruders.

## Check the Outside of Your Home

- Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on at night.
- Keep your yard clean. Prune back shrubbery so it doesn't hide doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that a thief could use to climb to an upper story window.
- Clearly display your house number so that police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.
- Make a list of your valuables—VCRs, DVD players, televisions, stereos, computers, jewelry, etc. Take photos of the items and list their serial numbers and descriptions.
- Ask local law enforcement for a free home security survey.

## Take a Stand

- Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates that you may be away from home. Rather than saying "I'm not at home right now," say "I'm not available right now."
- The cleaner your neighborhood is, the less attractive it is to crime. Get involved with neighborhood cleanup programs.



## Purpose of Vehicle Decals

Enclosed you will find two decals. Arlington Park Neighborhood Association (APNA) is requesting that you place a decal inside the upper corner of the windshield on the driver's side of each of your vehicles. The decal will help fellow residents, law enforcement officers, emergency response personnel, and others to easily identify those vehicles that belong in the neighborhood.

If you need more than the two decals provided, please send a request with your name, address, and the number of decals requested to:

Arlington Park Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 32005  
Sarasota, FL 34239-0005

Or send an email to:  
arlingtonparkna@yahoo.com