

Basic Home Security Checklist

Twin Cities GDC Local 14

Equipment you need

- ☐ 1 working flashlight for each member of the house
- ☐ A working fire extinguisher
- ☐ Sufficient smoke detectors
- ☐ A complete first aid kit that you maintain (consider purchasing a kit, and adding: medical scissors (for cutting off clothes), tourniquets, and clotting factor).
- ☐ An extra cell phone (cheap), with a charger, and at least one emergency number programmed
- ☐ Home defense weapon of choice

Doors

- ☐ Consider all 1st floor doors and window potential entry/exits points
- ☐ Every exterior door should have a ANSI Grade 1 Deadbolt with a 1" throw
- ☐ You may also want to consider a security bar (especially for apartments)
- ☐ Consider adding a peephole to your exterior door

Windows

- ☐ Ensure every window has a functioning lock (usually 'sash locks')
- ☐ Install 'ventilating window locks' for first-floor windows
- ☐ Window screens provide some additional security. Consider leaving in all-season. Screens can be placed *outside* of windows for extra protection against thrown objects
- ☐ Keep shades drawn when privacy is a concern

Key control

- ☐ You should know where every copy of your house key in the world exists, and trust those locations. If you do not, you should replace your locks immediately
- ☐ If you lose track of a key, replace/rekey your locks immediately
- ☐ Do not keep a spare key in a hiding space outside your home

Exterior lights and cameras If you own the property, automatic external lights or security cameras can provide additional security and discouragement to attackers.

Storing weapons safely

- ☐ Store defensive weapons in or *en route* to a safe room, or the room where you spend the most time
- ☐ Keep firearms locked, preferably in a safe, or with trigger locks
- ☐ If you are not comfortable with firearms in your home, we suggest blunt weapons (Baseball bats, golf clubs, batons) over edged weapons (knives, machetes), for a host of reasons, but you should use the weapons with which you have the most experience and comfort

Safe Room

- ☐ Decide on a safe room/position. This should be a room that can be defended easily, or a position - preferably at a 'choke point' such as the end of a hallway or at the top of a stairwell

- ☐ Keep flashlight, fire extinguisher, your defense weapon(s) of choice and an extra phone and charger in your safe room. Consider placing heavy furniture near ground-level exits
- ☐ If aggressors arrive at your home, get everyone to the safe room, prepare to defend yourself and use the phone to alert others and request support

Evacuation

- ☐ Plan multiple household evacuation routes (search for "NFPA Escape planning")
- ☐ Include at least one evacuation plan that includes the possibility that there may be aggressors in the area
- ☐ Prepare a second, nearby, safe place ahead of time. Ideally, this is a place you can get to quickly on foot, and is a person who can be trusted to admit you without hesitation into their home ahead of time, and has agreed to serve as a backup
- ☐ Practice your evacuation plans. If you have your own transportation, consider how to access it quietly, quickly, and safely
- ☐ If it is nighttime, don't turn on lights or otherwise draw attention to yourself; use flashlights

Untrustworthy Roommates

- ☐ Try to either get them to leave, or prepare to move in with trustworthy people. Living with untrustworthy people is not worth it
- ☐ If you have an untrustworthy roommate, treat all interior doors as exterior doors: and install a deadbolt, and consider a security bar
- ☐ If the roommate is in the house and you do not feel safe, go to a second location

Internet and Social Media

- ☐ Check your privacy settings on all social media accounts, and set them all to friends-only. Use the most restrictive and private settings you can while still making it a useful service for you.
- ☐ Go to <https://crashoverridenetwork.com> and follow their directions for securing your accounts and especially for opting out of public information services. This is not intellectually taxing but takes a few hours; you can probably do it while watching bad television.
- ☐ If you do come under internet attack, immediately take screen shots of all threats, deactivate your account temporarily, and alert your network of the threat. More information and expert advice about immediate response can be found at Crash Override Network

Vehicle

- ☐ Maintain your vehicle if you will rely on it for transportation
- ☐ Have an inflated spare tire, jack, and vehicle first aid kit
- ☐ A golf club or baseball bat is a useful addition to a vehicle kit
- ☐ Consider backing into parking spaces (makes it faster to depart)
- ☐ Consider the order of your actions when leaving/approaching a car. In approaching a car, for instance, prepare your keys ahead of time, scan the area for other people nearby, enter the car, lock the doors, then prepare seat belts and begin car.