

Does your community have a neighborhood watch group? If so, join your neighbors to talk about safety. If your neighborhood doesn't have a group, consider starting one. Talk to your local law enforcement agency to find out how.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KEEPING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

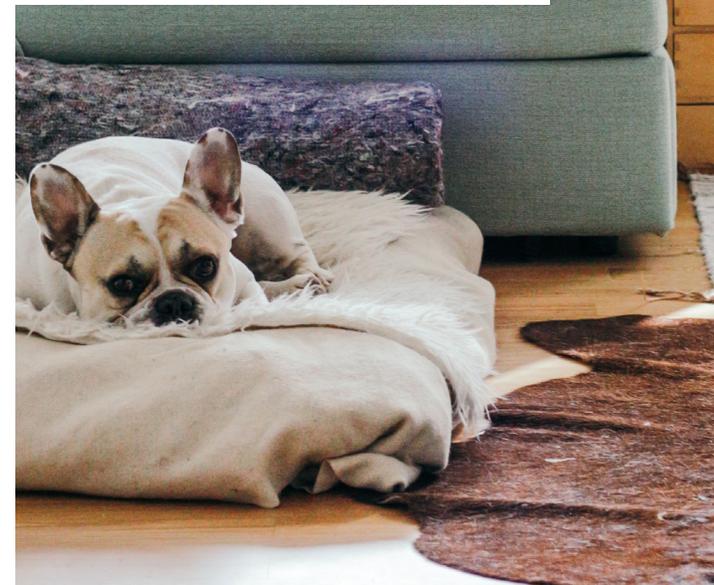
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BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION



8710 Bash Street #501692
Indianapolis, IN 46250
NationalPolice.org



SAFETY GUIDE HOME SECURITY



Keeping your home safe

Most burglars or intruders look for homes that appear easy to burglarize – if your home looks unoccupied, unsecured, or unprotected, you might be at risk. To protect your home, take look at all your entry points and consider how your home looks to outsiders.

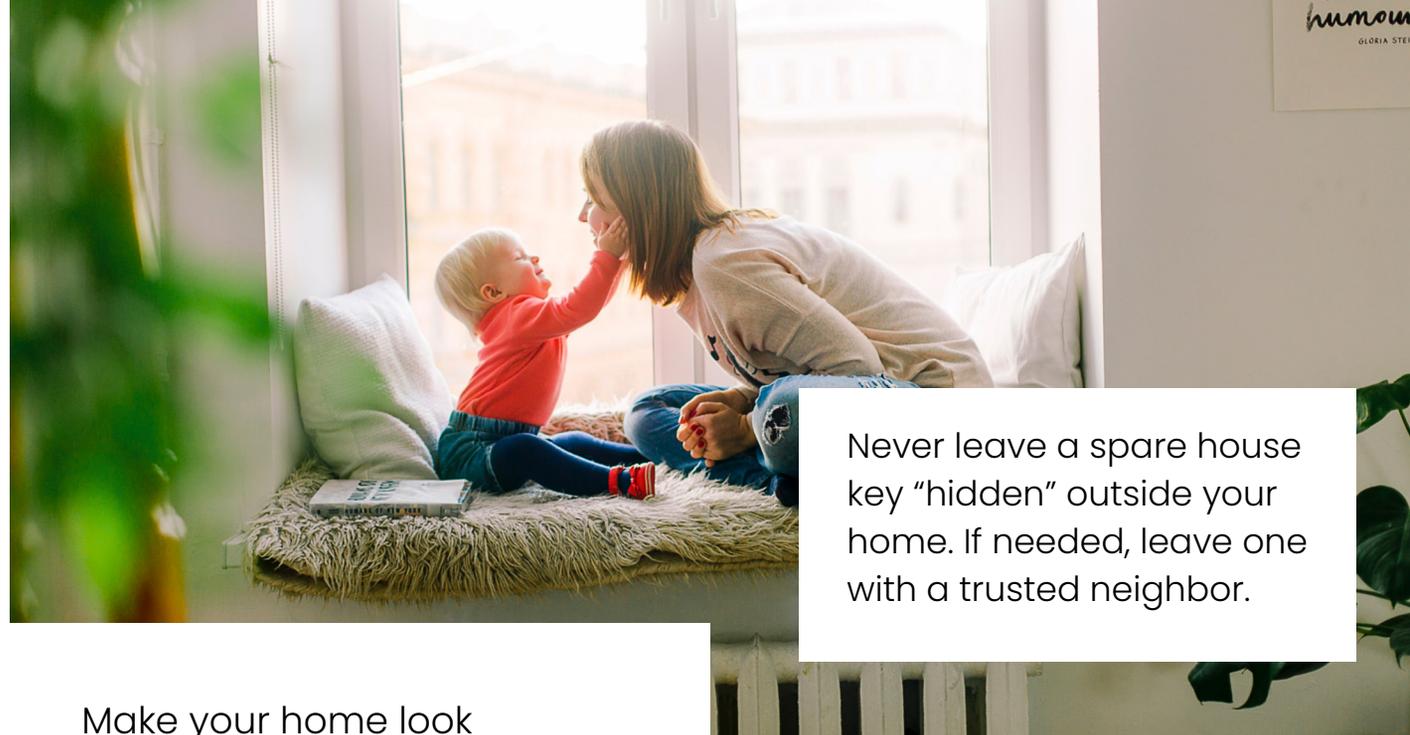
Doors and windows

All doors should be secured with deadbolt locks rather than spring-latch locks. Make sure your doors are always locked, even if you are away for just a few minutes.

Ensure all of your windows and sliding glass doors have locks that are up-to-date. Reinforce sliding windows and doors with wooden dowels or steel bars where you can.

Can you see entry points from the street?

Burglars look for doors and windows that are blocked by trees or bushes so they can do their work undetected. If needed, trim shrubbery to keep your doors and windows exposed.



Never leave a spare house key “hidden” outside your home. If needed, leave one with a trusted neighbor.

Make your home look occupied

Keep your TV or a small light on when you are away. If you are concerned about electricity costs, there are several inexpensive timers available that will keep your lights on for certain periods of the day.

Beware of what you share online

Burglars often check social media to find families that are away for extended periods of time. Make sure your accounts’ privacy settings are up to date if you are posting vacation photos or itineraries.

Get an alarm system

If possible, choose a program that notifies your local law enforcement agency when the alarm is triggered. Post notifications that you have an alarm system to discourage potential burglars.

Don’t let packages linger at your door

If you are expecting a delivery while you are away, ask a neighbor if they can accept the package for you. Or, have the package delivered to a P.O. box or to your place of work.

Know who you let inside your home

Do not allow strangers in your home. Do not be embarrassed to ask service workers (plumbers, electricians, etc.) for their credentials before letting them inside.

Talk to your kids about strangers - remind them that they should never allow someone into the house without you or a trusted adult present.

