

## **Burglar Proofing Your Home**

### **Keep your valuables safe with or without an alarm system**

When it comes to home ownership, keeping your property safe from burglary and theft should be at the top of your list of priorities. But despite everything we do to keep our homes secure, it's a sad fact that theft- and burglary-related crimes are still an every day occurrence.

A home protection device, such as a LifeShield wireless home security system, is the strongest defense against keeping intruders out of your home. But whether you have an alarm system or not, there are other precautions you can take to help make your home seem less attractive to burglars.

**Be a good neighbor.** You don't necessarily have to invite the Joneses over for tea every afternoon, or go on extended vacations with them. But if they seem like nice, responsible people, it's a good idea to at least get to know them by name. Being on good terms with your neighbors is one of the best precautions you can take, whether you have a wireless home security system or not.

**Garage banned.** If you have a garage attached to your house, remember to keep it just as secure as the rest of your home by keeping it locked at all times. Think of your garage door as the biggest entrance to your home. If it's not locked, you're inviting trouble in for a visit. And don't forget: if you do have a home protection device installed, make sure the garage is armed, too.

**Advertise your alarm system.** If you have a home protection device installed, be sure that everyone knows it by placing stickers or signs around your home and property. In fact, some cunning home-owners do this even without having home protection devices actually installed. If burglars are faced with a choice between a house armed with a wireless home security system and one without, which one do you think they'll choose?

**Shine some light on the subject.** One of the best home protection devices you can have is light. Make sure you have a well-lit property, or that you have motion detectors attached to your lights. Along with unlocked windows and doors, darkness is a burglar's best friend. But a well-lit yard will help keep away even the stealthiest intruder. It's the next best thing to an alarm system, and a sure sign that either someone is home, or the yard is too visible to qualify as a good target.

**Dude, where's the stuff in my car?** If you store your car in the garage, keep your garage door locked and armed with your alarm system if you have one. But if your car doesn't go in the garage at night, make every effort to keep valuables out of it. Sometimes the cumulative value of the items in the car (items such as GPS units, cell phones, jewelry, iPods, etc.) can be worth almost as much as the car itself. So don't allow it to become a storage unit for your valuables.

**Get assurance with insurance.** Having your valuables insured is the best way to know that you'll be covered financially. Make sure you have home owner's insurance, and make sure it's up to date. When you find yourself needing insurance but don't have it, you'll understand all too quickly why you should have had it all along. And keep this in mind: having a wireless home

security system or home protection device installed at your residence may even get you lower insurance rates.

**DIY with a wireless home security system.** The best possible way you can protect your home is with an alarm system. You can take as many precautions as you'd like, but without a home protection device in place, the risk of intruders managing to get into your home is always greater.

These are only some of the steps you can take to make your home more secure. But having an alarm system with 24-7 professional monitoring, such as a LifeShield wireless home security system, is the absolute best way to protect your valuables, and most importantly, your loved ones.