



Sheriff Tony Davis

GCSO Offers Home Security Survey and Checklist

As a service to the citizens of Greenwood County, members of the Community Services Division will provide an on-site visit and can conduct a home crime prevention survey at your request. This service is provided at no charge as part of the ongoing crime prevention efforts by the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office.

Below are many of the items discussed during an on-site visit or you may use this as a guide for your own home safety measures. Answers marked "no" indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home will be targeted.

Exterior Door Yes / No

- All doors are locked every time we leave the house - even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

Garage and Sliding Door Security

- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.
- The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.
- A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

Protecting Windows

- Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.

Outdoor Security

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.
- Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination. Yes No
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening - whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.
- **Our house number** is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high - security, laminated padlocks.
- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number.
- Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.

**For more information contact the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office
943-8057**