

## HOME SAFETY TIPS

## Chris Home Inspection

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ne of the easiest crimes to prevent - burglary is also one of the most common. Somewhere in the United States, there is a burglary committed every 15 seconds. A break-in, even when you're not there, has a major impact on your and your family's sense of safety and well-being. Try these simple yet effective anti-burglary tips.

**Tip #1 -** Instead of leaving your valuables such as your wallet on your night stand, store your valuables in a child's sock drawer.

**Tip #2 -** If your front entrance has a type of decorative glass, be sure your security keypad is NOT visible to the burglary who may peer into the window to notice an unarmed keypad.

**Tip #3 -** Remember, a front door with a mail slot will weaken the integrity of a door making it easier to kick in.

**Tip #4 -** Always leave your car keys on your night stand while you sleep, that will allow you to press the panic button to scare the burglar

**Tip #5 -** Plant thorny-type shrubs, such are rose bushes or bougainvilleas close to your ground-floor windows.

**Tip #6 -** While on vacation, ask you neighbor to remove any flyers stuck in your front door.

**Tip #7 -** Going on a weekend getaway, don't pack the car the night before, but wait till morning.

**Tip #8 -** Lower the volume on your phone ringer, so a burglary who is standing at your front door, can't hear it going to voice mail.

**Tip #9 -** Don't leave ladders around to encourage intruders to gain window access. That includes a nearby wood pile.

**Tip #10 -** If a hired worker asks to use the bathroom, be sure to make sure he doesn't unlatch the window lock for future entry.

**Tip #11 -** When making keys, be sure to use a reputable locksmith that is bonded and insured.

**Tip #12 -** No security system in your home? At lease purchase a decal and keep it visible.

**Tip #13-** Join a community watch program in your neighborhood. (Check out www.opid.org)

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