

What can you do to help?

There are plenty of things you can do to help prevent crime.

- Start a Neighborhood Watch Program
- Research local CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) guidelines to help make your area safer.
- Get to know your neighbors.
- Leave a spare key with a trusted neighbor, not under the mat.
- If your home is burglarized, do not touch anything or clean up until law enforcement checks for evidence.
- If you come home to an unexplained open or broken door or window, don't go in; call 9-1-1.
- Record serial numbers of firearms, appliances and other electronics and keep the list in an obscure location.

Vacation Tips

Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Follow these helpful tips:

- Have a trusted neighbor or friend collect mail and newspapers or place holds on those services while you're out of town.
- Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to move your cars around or park his or her car in your driveway.
- Never leave a message on your voice-mail telling people you're away from home.
- Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios, and TVs.
- Wait to update your social media sites (Facebook, MySpace) until you return home as to not advertise you are away.



Contact Us

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

Pima County Sheriff's Department
Community Resources Unit
(520) 351-4615

or



Visit our website for...

- Online crime reporting
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
- and more....

Together we can make a difference.



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Pima County
Sheriff's Department

*Keeping the Peace and Serving the
Community Since 1865*

HOME SAFETY

PROTECTING YOUR HOME



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Protecting Your Home

The days of leaving your doors unlocked or leaving a key under the mat are over. The safety of your home ultimately falls on you. Making your home safer from crime doesn't always mean having to install expensive alarms.

Effective home security starts with properly locked doors and windows, a well lit exterior, and better landscape design. A home security evaluation can identify and remedy weaknesses specific to your house. Neighborhood Watch Organizations are a valuable tool to protect the whole community. Also, just be a good neighbor and report suspicious activity when you observe it in your community.



Alarms: Alarm systems are one of the most popular ways to protect your house. Here are some considerations when using your system:

- Check with several companies before buying a system and deciding which level of security is right for you.
- Always keep your security system on, even if you're at home.
- Check that your system is updated and working.
- Don't share too much information about your alarm system.

Locks and Doors

Locks: Thieves can often spot weak locks that are easily forced open. Here are some important considerations:

- Use deadbolt locks, especially on exterior doors. Deadbolts should have at least a one-inch throw (the part that extends into the door jam when locked) with a strike plate reinforced with three-inch screws.
- Always use locks and deadbolts from reputable companies.
- Get locks changed immediately if you lose your keys.
- Do not hide spare keys.

Doors: Whether it's the strength of your door or simply remembering to lock it, here are steps you can take to stay safer:



- For exterior doors use those that are made of solid wood, fiberglass, metal, or any combination of those materials.
- Do not use hollow doors as exterior doors. Also, use strong hinges with non-removable pins.
- Equip your door with a peephole to see who is on the other side.
- Don't open your door unless you know who's there. Instruct children to let an adult know that someone is at the door before opening it.
- Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on an automatic garage door opener for security.
- Secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track.

Outdoors and Windows

Outdoors:

- Keep the perimeter of your house well-lit. Install low voltage outdoor lighting and/or motion detection lights. Check your lights periodically to ensure they're in working order.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances or walkways.
- Don't keep ladders or other items outside that a burglar could use to gain access to your home.

Windows:

- Install locks on all windows. Lock windows when you are leaving home and before going to bed.
- Even if you are home, do not open your windows wide enough so that someone can make entry.
- Don't leave valuable items in plain sight or where they can be seen from a window.
- Consider installing thick drapes to keep people from looking in.



Prevent it!

The Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers offer some resources that can help you stay better protected.

- Organize a Neighborhood Watch program.
- Video Identification: digitally document property in case of burglary.
- Home Security Inspections: free safety and security evaluations.

Call Today! 351-4685