

Dear South Division residents, please reviews this security newsletter that can better help you understand how to make your home safer:

First, let us talk about alarm systems. Everyone we have come into contact within your neighborhood has an alarm system.

- Make sure that you have the battery-cellular back-up that keeps the alarm system functioning if the power is cut to your home. It will call your alarm company the same way via a cell phone and battery if the alarm is tripped.
- Get to know how to use your alarm and use the home and away features on it, especially at night when you are asleep.

Lighting.

- Floodlights should have a light sensing socket screwed into the floodlight socket that you screw the bulb into. This way you can leave the lights on 24/7 and not waste electricity. They will come on when dark and go off when light. Make sure every entrance to your home has a light with this type of sensor on it. Lights should stay on all night to give the feeling that there are no hiding places and everyone walking through can be seen.

See below picture:



Interior Light Timers: These plug into electrical wall plugs. Use these indoors and plug a TV and lamp into them to go on and off at certain times of the day when you are away from home. This gives the appearance and sound that someone is home when you are not.



Fencing:

- If your property has a fence, lock the gates. This will keep intruders out of your yard. I heard from several neighbors that children walk through other neighbors' yards to go to the bus stop for school. If you allow this, then the bad guys will also have access. It would be easier for us on patrol to stop someone hopping over a fence, then if they appeared to belong by walking through.

Items in yard that can be used to break in:

- Remove old bricks or loose rocks or large items that can be used to break into windows. Store them in the garage.

Door hardware and locks:

- Make sure that if you have a door next to a window that you have a double-cylinder deadbolt lock. This is the type that needs a key for both the exterior and interior to unlock the deadbolt. See Illustration:



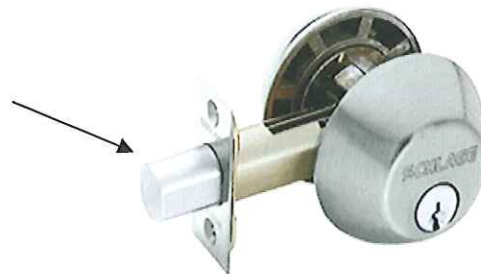
Examples of doors that need double-cylinder deadbolts (Also needed on French Doors):

Make sure that pins in top and bottom of the double-doors are at least 1" into the top door frame and bottom door frame



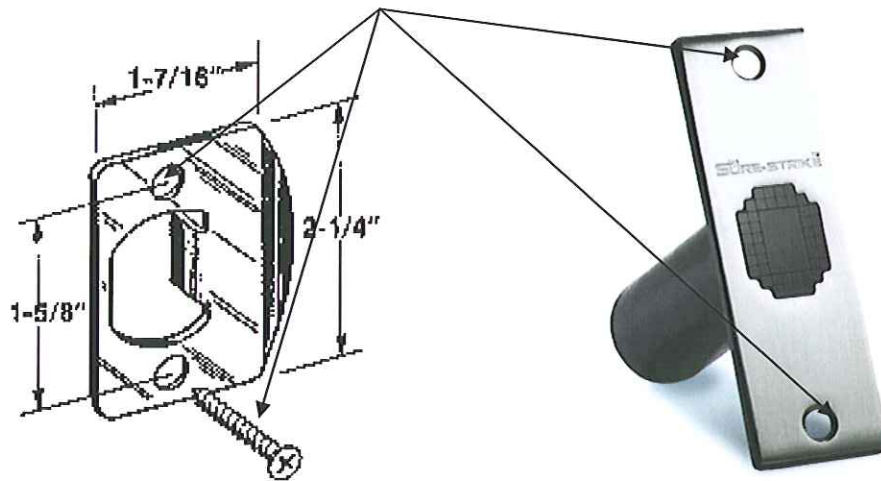
- Make sure that your deadbolt extends into the doorframe at least 1" for all doors.

Deadbolt at least 1"



- Strike plates and door hardware need at least 3” screws to make them secure.

3 Inch Screws



- Use ball and bar safety locks at the top of doors. These cannot be easily cut like a chain. Make sure that your screws are 3” or longer.



- Use sliding bar locks for French doors and make sure the bolts go into the casing at least 1”. Make sure that your screws are at least 3” or longer. The screws pictured are only about an inch long.



French doors install the sliding bolt locks here and here:



Windows:

- Some windows we have seen are the crank out casement windows, which are good because they are hard to pry open even if you break the glass and unlock the locks. They are also usually too narrow to get a body through or get items out of the house through.
- The standard windows however, are easily opened by sticking a screwdriver between the top and bottom windows and unlocking the locks. To prevent this, drill holes in the top corners of the bottom window that go into the top window almost $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the way through the top window. (Ground level only).

Drill holes and install security pins here and here:

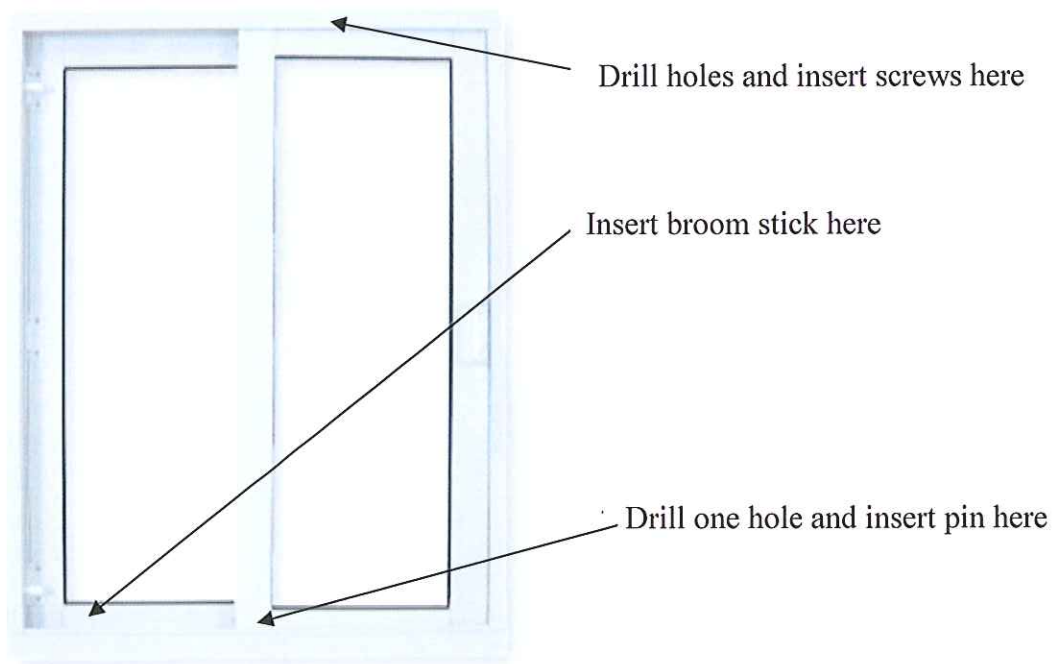


Sliding glass doors:

The best way to secure a sliding glass door is to drill at least 6 holes in the top track of the door frame above the movable door. Then screw 6 screws into these holes, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the screw out of the frame. This will create a top track for the movable door, so that it cannot be lifted out of the bottom track.

Then drill a hole through the movable door into the stationary door at the bottom corner where the two doors meet. Place a pin in the hole, so that the movable door cannot slide without taking out the pin.

Lastly use a Charlie-bar or a broom stick to place in the channel bracing the movable door against the door frame.

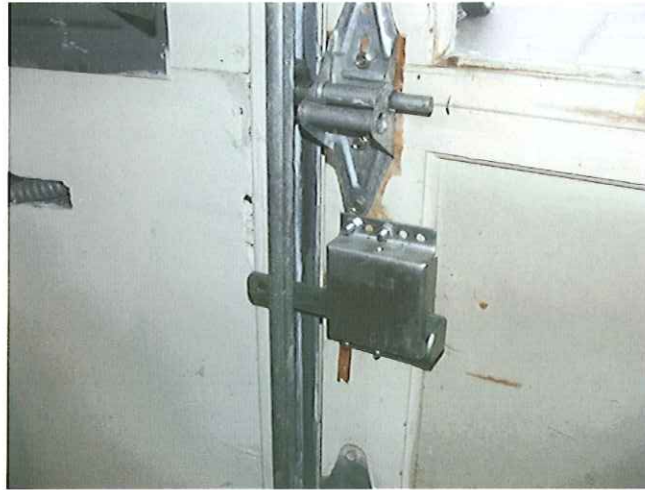


A very popular crime prevention tool is the Strikemaster or Charlie Bar:



Almost all of the garage doors have a locking switch in the wall garage door opener. Use it when at home at night and when away.

They also have locks on the doors themselves. Look to see if yours has this type of lock:



PLEASE, PRACTICE FIRE DRILLS IN YOUR HOME TO KNOW WHERE KEYS FOR DOUBLE-CYLINDER DEADBOLTS ARE KEPT, AND HOW TO GET THE SECURITY PINS OUT OF THE WINDOWS ON THE FIRST FLOOR, IN CASE OF THE NEED FOR AN EMERGENCY EXIT.

ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGE PEOPLE AT YOUR DOOR THROUGH THE CLOSED DOOR AND THEN CALL 911 IF YOU THINK THEY ARE FISHING TO SEE IF SOMEONE IS HOME.

MAKE SURE YOUR DOORBELL CHIME IS LOUD ENOUGH TO HEAR ON ALL LEVELS OF YOUR HOME.

John and I hope this will help you feel safer in your home. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

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