

## **LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION**

### **10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HOME SECURITY**

1. **LOCK ALL YOUR DOORS / WINDOWS!** Especially when you are away from home. Most burglars look for the easy way in. Any unlocked point of entry can be the easiest way into your home. Doggie doors also provide a risk. Also, close your garage door and protect your garage door opener.
2. **DEADBOLTS AND DOORS MATTER!** Forcible entry can be deterred by having a deadbolt with at least a 1" throw bolt and a solid wood, metal or security door. Use 3" wood screws in the strike plate. Two locks are better than one. Visit a home improvement store for options.
3. **LIGHT THE NIGHT!** Criminals do not seek out well-lit homes to break into. Nor do they seek out well-lit areas to hide, vandalize, or commit other crimes. Darkness helps criminals stay hidden and keeps you from seeing what you should see. Increase lighting, decrease opportunity.
4. **GLASS IS VULNERABLE!** All windows and sliding doors have weaknesses due to the ease of shattering the glass. Reinforce with security laminate and avoid having door locks near windows. Reduce the opportunity to maneuver the glass out of the door frame or track by using secondary locking devices or adjusting screws in the track to prevent lifting.
5. **SPARE KEYS LET ANYONE IN!** Do not leave spare keys outside for any reason. Carry a spare yourself, or provide one to a trusted neighbor or relative / friend. Unattended keys are a risk.
6. **BE EASILY FOUND!** Make sure your home address is visible and well-lit. Emergency responders look for address information when responding to police, fire or medical emergency calls.
7. **CREATE THE LOOK OF OCCUPANCY! ALWAYS RESPOND TO A KNOCK AT YOU'RE YOUR DOOR!** No one is home all the time. The trick is to make your house look or sound occupied if home or not. Use timed lights, radios and things that appear as if you are home. Also, have your home looked after when you are away for extended periods of time. Consider a Home Alarm! It is an audible alert to a criminal and very helpful. Don't ignore someone on your porch – they may try to break in if it looks or sounds like you are not home. Have a strong verbal response and call the police if they don't go away.
8. **WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?** Begin or participate in a Neighborhood Watch effort. Look out for each other and create a sense of surveillance in the neighborhood.
9. **WHAT DO YOU OWN?** Create and maintain a Home Content Inventory list. Know what you own and be able to identify it. One helpful way is to visit [www.reportit.com](http://www.reportit.com).
10. **PAY ATTENTION!** Listen and look. What you see and hear may need to be reported. Be aware of area activity. Write things down or take pics if safe to do so. Report suspicious people / activity.

For more information on Home Security or Neighborhood Watch, contact the Crime Prevention Specialist assigned to your LVMPD Area Command. Or, visit [www.lvmpd.com](http://www.lvmpd.com) and choose the "Protect Yourself" tab where you will find additional Crime Prevention information.