

**NORTH COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT
845 SOUTH HANOVER STREET
POTTSTOWN, PA 19465**

Telephone (610) 323-8360 ♦ FAX (610) 326-2925



RESIDENTIAL SECURITY SURVEY

Each year, many people suffer the loss of personal belongings due to residential burglaries and thefts from their property or vehicles. Additionally, some people feel incensed that a stranger was in their house and violated the place they have worked so hard to provide for their families. In many of these cases, simple steps could have been taken by the homeowner to deter the burglar from making entry into their home. Statistics show that homeowners implement many home security measures, such as an alarm system or deadbolts, **after** they have become burglary victims.

The North Coventry Police Department has developed a Residential Security Survey to help homeowners in the Township take some basic measures to protect their homes and personal property. Research has shown that some of these simple and inexpensive ideas are likely to deter a criminal from breaking into your house altogether, or at least slow him down substantially so that the police have a better chance of making an apprehension. The Security Survey provides about fifty safety tips in a checklist-type form. The survey addresses specific areas, such as doors, windows, and lighting that are likely to have some security deficiencies. The Police Department also has a Vacation Check Program, which is covered in the survey.

Members of the Police Department would be happy to stop by your home, provide you with a copy of the survey, and explain some of the areas that typically need special attention. We would also be happy to take the time to do a “walk-through” of your home and property with you to make recommendations on improving the safety and security of your home. Fire safety inspections are also available to residents. All information obtained on the walk-through would, of course, be confidential and the completed survey and recommendations would be retained by the homeowner.

To obtain a copy of the survey, please call or stop by the station. If you need additional information on the Residential Security Survey, or perhaps information on other programs offered to the community by the Police Department, please contact Chief Michael A. Benyo at 610-323-8360.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**911 FOR POLICE, FIRE, AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
610-323-1212 FOR POLICE DISPATCH
610-323-8360 FOR POLICE OFFICE (8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM)**

This Residential Security Survey is offered courtesy of North Coventry Police Department.

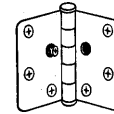
RESIDENTIAL SAFETY AND SECURITY SURVEY

DOORS

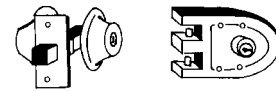
1. Are all exterior doors of solid wood or metal construction?
- a. Front Yes_____ No_____
- b. Rear Yes_____ No_____
- c. Basement Yes_____ No_____
- d. Interior Garage Yes_____ No_____
- e. Other Yes_____ No_____

2. Are all doorframes securely fastened and strong enough to prevent forcing or spreading?
Yes_____ No_____

3. Are all exterior door hinges protected from removal?
Yes_____ No_____



4. Are all exterior doors secured with a high quality deadbolt with a one-inch throw?
- a. Front Yes_____ No_____
- b. Rear Yes_____ No_____
- c. Basement Yes_____ No_____
- d. Interior Garage Yes_____ No_____
- e. Other Yes_____ No_____



5. Are there windows or glass in any door within reach of the interior deadbolt (about 40 inches)?
Location_____ Yes_____ No_____

If yes, is deadbolt on that door double keyed?

Yes_____ No_____

WARNING: DEADBOLTS WITH INTERIOR KEYS MAY DELAY YOUR EXITING THE RESIDENCE IN AN EMERGENCY! A KEY MUST BE KEPT NEARBY AND BE READILY ACCESSIBLE.

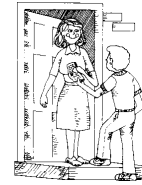
6. Are strike plates securely fastened to doorframes with screws at least three inches in length?
Yes_____ No_____

7. Can locking mechanism of any exterior door be reached through mail slot, pet door, or by any other means?

Yes_____ No_____

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8. Is pet door large enough to allow a person to crawl through it?
Yes _____ No _____

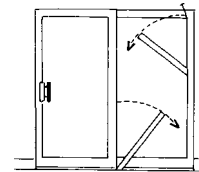


9. Is 180-degree peephole installed in front door?
Yes _____ No _____

WARNING: OPENING YOUR DOOR TO GREET STRANGERS IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. IN ADDITION, A DOOR CHAIN CAN EASILY BE BROKEN AND IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY. HOMEOWNERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO GREET STRANGERS WITHOUT RISKING THEIR SAFETY, SUCH AS THROUGH A LOCKED STORM DOOR.

10. Does storm/screen door have an adequate lock?
Yes _____ No _____

11. Is sliding door secured with an adequate lock or “Charley Bar”?
Yes _____ No _____

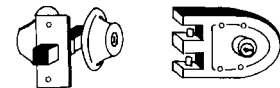


12. Can sliding doors be lifted out of tracks?
Yes _____ No _____

13. Are doors to living quarters from basement and/or garage of solid wood or metal construction?
Yes _____ No _____

14. Do doors to living quarters from basement and/or garage have adequate locks, preferably dead bolts?

Yes _____ No _____



15. Is garage door adequately secured?
Yes _____ No _____

16. Is it the homeowner’s practice to lock **all** doors when away?
Yes _____ No _____



WINDOWS

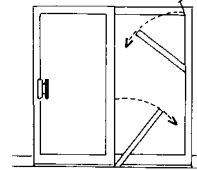
1. Are double hung windows secured with a key lock or drilled for pins for added security?
Yes _____ No _____



2. Are all screens and/or storm windows adequately secured?
Yes _____ No _____

3. Should security screens or grills be installed on any windows?
Yes _____ No _____

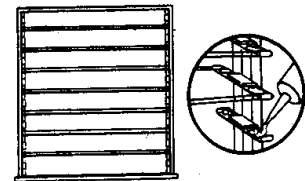
4. Do sliding windows have adequate locks or “Charley Bars”?
Yes _____ No _____



5. Can sliding windows be lifted out of tracks?
Yes _____ No _____

6. Does residence have louvered windows?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, have glass strips been secured against removal?
Yes _____ No _____



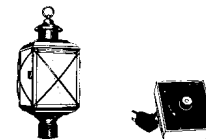
7. Are garage and basement windows adequately secured?
Yes _____ No _____

8. Do large trees allow access to roof or second floor windows?
Yes _____ No _____

9. Is it the homeowner’s practice to lock all windows when away?
Yes _____ No _____

LIGHTING

1. Is there adequate lighting at all exterior entrances and windows?
Yes _____ No _____



2. Do lights at entrances, corners of house, and garage have motion sensors?
Yes _____ No _____



3. Are trees and shrubs cut back to prevent a suspect from hiding behind them and to allow illumination of windows and doors?
Yes _____ No _____

4. Are there “dark spots” at or near entrances or windows that would make a good hiding place?
Yes _____ No _____



5. Are any nearby street lights out?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please contact the Township Office at 610-323-1694 to have them repaired.

6. Is it the homeowner’s practice to leave lights on when away?
Yes _____ No _____

MISCELLANEOUS SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Is a house key hidden outside of the residence?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, it should not be. Give it to a trusted neighbor or nearby friend.



2. Does homeowner give house keys to cleaning person, repair or service people?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, use your discretion and know who you are giving house keys to.

3. Is homeowner’s name, address, and phone number on key chain?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, they should not be because they readily identify what home they will provide access to.

4. Are exterior locks re-keyed when keys are lost or when family moves to a new home?
Yes _____ No _____

5. Is house number clearly marked in front of house/property?
Yes _____ No _____



NOTE: NORTH COVENTRY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE #73 REQUIRES OWNERS OF ALL HOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS TO NUMBER THEM IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE TO FACILITATE RESPONSE BY POLICE, FIRE, AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL. NUMBERS MUST BE AT LEAST THREE INCHES HIGH.

6. Are “Child Find” stickers placed on the bedroom windows of all children to expedite rescue in the case of a fire or other emergency?
Yes _____ No _____

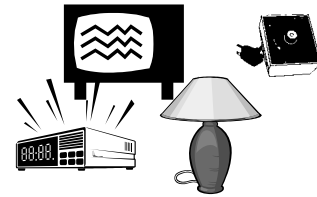
7. Are Town Watch or alarm company stickers displayed at or on residence?

Yes _____ No _____



8. Are timers used on lights, radios, or TVs when family is away?

Yes _____ No _____

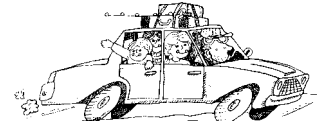


9. Are mail, newspapers, and packages stopped or picked up when family is away?

Yes _____ No _____

10. Is the Police Department given notice when the family goes away?

Yes _____ No _____



NOTE: THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS A POLICY WHERE PATROL OFFICERS PERIODICALLY CHECK VACATION RESIDENCES WHILE FAMILIES ARE AWAY. PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

11. Are all gates, sheds, and garages adequately secured when not in use?

Yes _____ No _____

12. Is all movable property on the premises secured when not in use?

Yes _____ No _____

13. If homeowner has a dog, are "Beware of Dog" signs posted?

Yes _____ No _____

14. Does residence have an alarm?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, is homeowner knowledgeable with the system?

Yes _____ No _____

Is homeowner, when alarm is installed, registered with the Police Department?

Yes _____ No _____

NOTE: NORTH COVENTRY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE #89 REGULATES ALARM DEVICES IN HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE TOWNSHIP. HOMEOWNERS SHOULD CONTACT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT UPON INSTALLATION OF AN ALARM SYSTEM IN THEIR HOME OR BUSINESS.

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15. Is there a "safe area" in the house where family members can go in case of an intruder while they are at home?

Yes _____ No _____

A room used for a "SAFE AREA" must have a solid door, dead bolt, and telephone.

16. Are Poison Control, Police, Fire, and Ambulance emergency numbers posted near all phones?

Yes _____ No _____

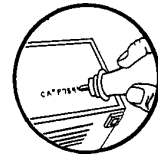
17. Is there a high security area specifically for securing valuables, such as a gun safe?

Yes _____ No _____

If no, please consider the installation or purchase of a safe, or acquiring a safe deposit box for those valuables that are irreplaceable or may be difficult to insure.

18. Has homeowner photographed, inventoried, and marked all valuables?

Yes _____ No _____



If no, it should be done for all valuables. In the event of a burglary, police will need model and serial numbers and homeowners' insurance company will need the information for a claim. The Police Department has several engravers that you can borrow to mark your valuables.

19. Are all firearms and ammunition secured to prevent access by unauthorized persons or children?

Yes _____ No _____

20. Does the residence have adequate smoke/carbon monoxide detectors?

Yes _____ No _____

NOTE: SMOKE DETECTORS ARE AVAILABLE TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS FREE OF CHARGE THROUGH THE NORTH COVENTRY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

If yes, are they all operational and are batteries routinely checked and changed to ensure operation?

Yes _____ No _____

21. Are packages and valuables removed from vehicles parked in the driveway?

Yes _____ No _____

22. Are keys removed from vehicles parked in the driveway and are they locked at all times when not in use?

Yes _____ No _____

23. Do you report suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the Police Department?

Yes _____ No _____

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24. Are you a member of the North Coventry Town Watch?

Yes _____ No _____

If no, and you want to join or would like more information on Town Watch, contact the Police Department.

25. Does the homeowner do business with small, home repair contractors who stop at the residence, unsolicited, and offer to do work at unbelievable savings?

Yes _____ No _____

Always deal with reputable contractors and ask for references from past customers; otherwise, you may become a victim in one of many home repair scams; i.e., roofing, paving, driveway sealing, etc., that move through our area.



WHAT DO I DO IF MY HOME IS BROKEN IN TO?

If you return home and discover that your house has been burglarized:

1. Go to a neighbor's house to call police or use a cell phone
2. Do not go inside, wait for the police to arrive and clear your house
3. Do not touch or disturb anything
4. Assist police with a list of missing property, damage to residence, any suspicious activity in the neighborhood prior to the burglary

VACATION CHECK PROGRAM

The North Coventry Police Department has a Vacation Check Program. If you are planning to go away for more than three days, please call the Department and provide us with pertinent information about where you will be and emergency contact numbers. Of course all vacation checks are confidential. If there is a problem at your residence while you are away, we will be able to contact you immediately.

Generally, patrol officers will stop and check the exterior of your residence every few days while you are away, usually late at night. The program is not specifically designed to stop a burglary in progress, although that could conceivably happen. We check your residence to make sure it is secure, and in the event that a break in took place, we can contact you and get a head start on the investigation and also re-secure your home.