



## Mythbusters!

A reformed burglar speaks out and dispels some common security practices we always thought kept our home safer - Please take a moment to read them and see if you are a part of the myth!

### Myth #1: Posting detailed alarm signs

By posting a sign stating which alarm you have, you're giving the burglar all the information needed to bypass that specific system. A better move is to post a general warning sign that the home has an alarm.



### Myth #2: Leaving lights on

A light that stays on all the time is no more of a deterrent than a dark house. Use timers that turn lights on and off in different parts of the house at different intervals to give the appearance to anyone watching that there is someone home.

### Myth #3: Hiding valuables in the bedroom

It's the first place burglars look - store rarely-used valuables in a safe-deposit box. In the home, be creative with your hiding spots and don't hide everything in one place.

### Myth #4: Installing alarms (but not using them!)

Even if you're just running out for coffee, set your alarm. Career burglars will stake out your home to learn your habits before ever acting. Make it a habit - some newer alarms can even be armed remotely from your smartphone, so there is no excuse!

### Myth #5: Hiding windows with landscaping

Tall bushes and shrubs can allow burglars to jimmy windows without being seen.

### Myth #6: Having newspaper and mail delivery stopped

The more activity burglars see, the less likely they are to target your house. While you're away, it's better to ask friends or neighbors to gather your mail. If you can't do this, then stop the mail - don't let it pile up, as that is another sure sign no one is home.

### Myth #8: Counting on chain locks

They're virtually useless...Secure every exterior door with deadbolts - and use them!