



Home Security Evaluation

Although we can't reduce a burglar's desire and ability, we can reduce their opportunities, so we are sometimes forced to think like burglars do in order to accomplish this goal. So with the warm weather right around the corner, take a look around and evaluate your home's security. Are you providing an easy way in? Are there open vents or crawl spaces, Dog doors, or unsecured Fire escapes? Take the test below to see where you stand.

What is your Security Quotient?

The following test will help you evaluate your "Security Quotient" or the degree to which you have reduced a criminal's opportunity to gain access to your home. Naturally, we expect a score of 100% and we do hope this questionnaire will serve as a guide for you to make your home and your neighborhood a safer place to live! Put a check mark next to each question you answered yes to and discover your "Security Quotient".

- I have trimmed all shrubbery that would conceal entrances to my house, especially basement windows.
- My house number is clearly marked on my residence and illuminated by my entrance light for quick recognition by emergency personnel.
- The exterior doors to my home are constructed of solid wood or metal and have strike plates and hinges installed with 3-inch screws.
- I leave exterior lights ON, front and back, during the hours of darkness, whether I am home or not.
- I have deadbolt locks or other recommended secure locks on all exterior doors, and I use them!
- All windows in my home are locked (not just latched) while I am away, especially basement windows.
- When I leave my home unoccupied, I leave a radio on and lights on timers. In other words, my home has that lived-in look while I am gone.
- I keep shed or garage doors securely locked when I'm gone.
- When I'm away overnight or longer, I alert neighbors to watch my house and ask a trusted neighbor or friend to pick up mail, change lights, mow lawn, etc.
- Did you leave a ladder outside? Burglars could use it, or climb a nearby tree, to get in an upstairs window or fire escape.

Give yourself 10 points for each point checked
0 - 50: attention is necessary
50 - 70: consider improvements
70 - 90: you're doing a good job
90 - 100: excellent, way to go!