

The truth about burglary...

- Criminals committed 165 residential burglaries in Pleasanton in 2012. In many of these burglaries, no force was used. That means the burglars got in through UNLOCKED doors and windows.

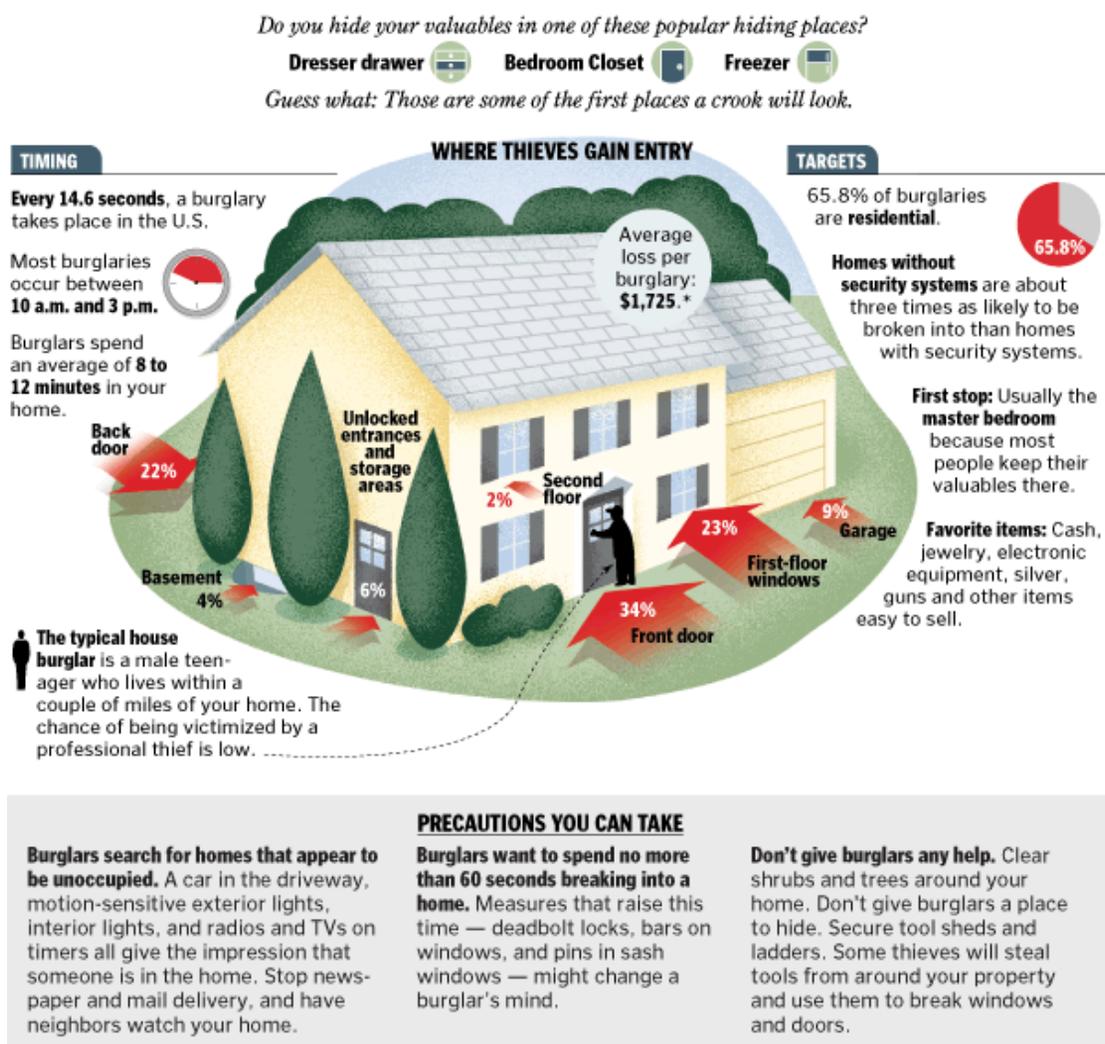
Most burglaries can be prevented.

- Remember—an unlocked lock is not a lock. Always lock your doors and windows even when leaving for just a minute.
- House numbers should be visible from the street and lighted at night. This is important for law enforcement, fire or medical personnel responding to a call.
- Never leave a house key available: under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of the door. **These are the first places a burglar will look**
- Install a wide angle lens peep hole in the front door. Never open the door without knowing who is there.
- Don't leave notes indicating you aren't home or when you will return.
- Whenever you move to a new home have the locks changed.
- Never have a name or license tag attached to your house keys. If keys are lost or stolen you can have unwelcome visitors quickly.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number preceded by the letters "CA." Marked property is harder to fence. You can loan an engraver for free from the Pleasanton Police Department.
- Neighbors working together in cooperation with law enforcement make one of the best crime fighting teams around. Consider starting a Neighborhood Watch group. Contact the Pleasanton Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit for more information.

Going out?

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use timers so that lights, radio and TV go on and off throughout the house to indicate someone is home.
- For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and newspaper delivery or have a trusted neighbor collect them daily.
- Ask a neighbor to utilize your driveway for parking while you're gone.

- In short, make your house look "LIVED IN."
- For more information about leaving your home for vacation, please look for Pleasanton Police Department's Vacation Security brochure.
- Never enter your house if you see evidence of a burglary. Call Pleasanton Police immediately.
- **If you meet a burglar, let him go! Better to lose money or property than your life!**



Lock it up!

- All exterior doors should be of solid-core construction and at least 1¾" thick. The door frame should also be of solid construction.
- Secure all exterior doors with deadbolt locks. The bolt must extend a minimum of 1" and contain a hardened steel insert.
- When installing a deadbolt, attach the strike plate to the door frame with 3" wood screws.
- For front doors with glass panels, consider security glazing or shatterproof glass.
- Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio, or other doors that lead out through the storage area or a spare room.
- For sliding glass doors, install keyed locking devices that secure the door to the frame; adjust the track clearances on the doors so they can't be pushed out of their tracks; or put a piece of wood or a metal bar in the track of the closed door to prevent opening.
- For more information, please read our brochure "How to Secure Windows and Doors".



Garage doors...

The interior door leading from the garage to the house should be considered an entry door. It should be a solid-core door with a good quality lock and secured hinge pins.

The door that leads from the backyard area into your garage is the weakest door in your home. This door should not be overlooked when assessing your exterior doors.

Unless you are entering or leaving your garage, the door should be CLOSED. This includes "leaving it open a crack" for a pet.

What about lighting and landscaping?

Lighting is one of the most cost-effective deterrents to burglary. Indoor lighting gives the impression that a home is occupied. Outdoor lighting can eliminate hiding places.

Entryways to your home should always be well lighted. Place lights out of reach from the ground so the bulbs cannot be removed or broken.

Your home's walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the main entrance and away from private areas. Landscaping should also provide maximum visibility to and from your house.

Trim shrubbery and cut back tree limbs that can conceal a criminal. For more information on how to make your home a harder target, please see our brochure "CPTED."

Alarms...

An alarm is the #1 deterrent to a residential burglary. (A dog is the #2 deterrent!) Burglar alarms are available from many retail stores, or entire systems may be leased or purchased from alarm companies. Most residential alarms emit a loud noise from a bell, siren or tone generator. Make sure that your family and neighbors know to call Pleasanton Police Department when they hear the alarm.

There are many types of alarms on the market. A local company specializing in burglar alarm systems will save you money in service calls. Get several estimates and then decide which alarm is best for your needs. Note: Pleasanton Police cannot recommend alarm companies



Please note that while Pleasanton does not require a permit to operate an alarm within the city limits, there is a false alarm ordinance. A fine may be levied for too many false alarms. Call the Crime Prevention Unit at (925) 931-5240 for more information.

HOME SECURITY



TIPS FOR KEEPING BURGLARS OUT OF YOUR HOME

Pleasanton Police Department

4833 Bernal Avenue

Pleasanton, CA 94566

(925) 931-5100

www.PleasantonPD.org

