

Neighborhood Watch - Home Security Inspection Checklist

This checklist is designed to help you with personal safety and security issues in and around your home. The primary function of this checklist is to identify security weaknesses and assess your actions or your inactions which makes you an easy target for a crime. Begin the survey at your front door and continue until you inspect all exterior doors, windows, locks lights and landscaping. Place a check mark by those questions which you find difficult to answer "yes or no" to as they may require further attention.

Front, Side or Rear Entrances

1. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction? Yes No
2. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? Yes No
3. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? Yes No
4. If there are glass panels in or near your doors, are they reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered? Yes No
5. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks? (If so, have a deadbolt or lock which requires a key on both sides to unlock and do not leave a key in the lock.) Yes No
6. Is the door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw (1 inch of the bolt extends past the edge of the door)? Yes No
7. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws? (A strike is the protective metal plate installed in the door jamb that receives the latch or lock "tongue" the door is closed.) Yes No
8. Door features wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use? Yes No
9. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at doorway? Yes No
10. Is there a screen, storm or security door with an adequate lock? Yes No
11. Is entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt bulb? Yes No
12. Are all doors locked at night and every time you leave the house – even if it's just for a few minutes? Yes No
13. Do all entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door? Yes No
14. Can front entrance be observed from street or public areas? (You want neighbors to be able to see your doorway.) Yes No
15. Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from street or public areas? (You want neighbors to be able to see your doorway.) Yes No
16. Are spare keys kept with a trusted neighbor, NOT under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in the mailbox? Yes No

Entrances from Garage, Basement or Sliding Glass Door

1. Are all entrances to living quarters from garage and/or basement of metal and solid wood construction? Yes No
2. Does door from garage and/or basement to living quarters have a quality keyed door lock and a deadbolt? Yes No
3. Does door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from living quarters inside? Yes No
4. If there are glass panels in or near your doors, are they reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered? Yes No
5. Are garage, basement and/or sliding glass doors all locked when leaving the house? Yes No
6. Does the sliding glass door have a strong, working key lock? Yes No
7. Has a dowel or a pin to secure a glass door been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track? Yes No

Protecting Windows

1. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? Yes No
2. Do all windows have screen or storm windows that lock from the inside? Yes No
3. Are all windows secured with window pins? (This is a judgment call because it can be considered dangerous to have pinned windows in the event of a fire.) Yes No
4. Are all windows closed and locked when no one is home? Yes No
5. Are all windows locked when closed? Yes No

Ground Floor Windows

1. Do any windows that open onto areas that offer special risk to burglary have security screens or grills (small basement windows or windows concealed by bushes)? Yes No
2. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structures of landscaping? Yes No
3. Is exterior adequately lighted at all window areas? Yes No

Upper Floor Windows

1. Are all windows that open onto porch or garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings secured adequately as if they were at ground level? Yes No
2. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back? Yes No
3. Are all ladders kept locked away so intruders can't reach upper floor windows? Yes No

Basement Doors and Windows

1. If there is a door from the outside to the basement, is that door adequately secured for an exterior door? Yes No
2. Is outside basement entrance lighted by exterior light of at least 40-watts? Yes No
3. Is outside basement door concealed from street or intruders? Yes No
4. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance? Yes No

Garage Doors and Windows

1. Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device? Yes No
2. Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times? Yes No
3. Are garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows? Yes No
4. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-watt bulb? Yes No

Outdoor Security

1. Are shrubs and bushes trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide? Yes No
2. There are no dark areas around the house, garage or yard at night that would hide an intruder. Yes No
3. Does every outside door have a bright, working light to illuminate visitors? Yes No
4. Are tools, ladders and other equipment kept inside a locked garage or utility shed? Yes No

Join Grant Park's Modes of Communication with Neighbors

1. Join the neighborhood website - www.gpna.org – Fill in the “Join our Neighborhood News” section to provide your information. GPNA has the ability to email everyone in 30315 and 30312 when necessary.
2. “Like” us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/GrantParkGPNA
3. Follow us on Twitter – www.twitter.com/GrantParkGPNA
4. Join the Grant Park Security Patrol - <http://gpna.org/security-patrol>
5. Join the Grant Park Neighborhood Watch Google Group for crime notifications sent to your email: <http://groups.google.com/group/grant-park-neighborhood-watch?lnk>

APD Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) – 404.546.5650 (non-emergency calls –shoes on a wire, graffiti, etc.)
Zone 6 Precinct – 404.371.5002 (call 911 first, then call Zone 6)