

Safety Tips from the Philadelphia Police Department

HOW TO BE SAFE WHEN YOU'RE AT HOME

If you have taken the security measures recommended to make your home a bad bet for burglars, then you've made it tough on other types of intruders as well. Here are 15 ways to be even safer.

1. Keep emergency numbers such as those for police and the fire department near, or on the phone.
2. Always keep your doors locked when at home.
3. Install a peephole in your door so you can see callers without opening the door.
4. A security chain is also a good idea. It enables you to receive small deliveries without opening the door all the way. Don't stand directly behind the opening, though. You could be grabbed by someone reaching in.
5. Never let strangers in. Don't be embarrassed to insist on proper identification from any caller. If he can't show it or you're still suspicious after seeing it, call the organization or company he represents for verification.
6. If you let someone in by mistake, pretend you are not alone. For example, a husband or friend elsewhere in the house.
7. If you are female and live alone, don't put your first name on a mail box or in the phone book. Just your first initial.
8. If a stranger asks to use the phone, don't let him in. Offer to place the call for him.
9. Never give out information over the phone indicating who is or is not at home, or when they are expected back. Make sure children and babysitters know this rule, too.
10. Make sure you have a lock on your bedroom door.
11. Consider installing a telephone in the bedroom, since it enables you to call for help if you wake up and hear an intruder in your home.
12. Always keep window shades and curtains drawn at night.
13. Never change clothes in front of a window.
14. Vary your daily routine of coming and going. Many attacks are planned.
15. Plan in advance your potential routes of escape should an intruder or fire make it necessary.