

Yard-Bound? Security Tips You Can Perform

Most of us continue to spend a lot of time at home--and because it's spring, that means a lot of outside time. Here are some tips from the pros on using that time to tighten up your security picture:



- **Replace those bulbs.** Darkness is a burglar's best friend. Do a walk around your house one night, making note of any broken bulbs or other malfunctions. And don't stop with the bulbs; if you have the DIY skills, now may be the time to add some outdoor lighting.
- **Prune those bushes.** Thick shrubbery is a housebreaker's *other* best friend. If your trees and bushes could offer cover to a burglar—as is typical around first-floor windows and back doors—trim them back.
- **Stow your tools and equipment.** Ladders, lawnmowers, edgers, and tools in general are favorite targets of casual thieves, who can resell them for easy cash. Too many homeowners leave these items either sitting in plain sight or inside a shed whose door has no lock. Reduce your vulnerability by properly securing this gear.
- **Stickers are cheap.** We've often discussed the affordability and ease of use of today's home security systems. But you know what? A sticker or sign near your front door warning that your house is protected by a well-known provider will scare off most crooks—whether you actually have a system or not.
- **Bring in those Amazons.** By now, most people have heard of “porch pirates” who cruise neighborhoods in search of packages to pilfer. Be sure to bring in your deliveries promptly. Better still, designate a delivery spot that will hide your Amazon goodies from cruising crooks.