

A CPTED safe home

Valuables marked with I.D.

Use Washington Driver's License or I.D card numbers (example: WA 1234567DL) to permanently mark valuables.

Bracketed casement windows

Screw an "L" bracket with a removable pin into the bottom part of the window that has a swinging hinge.

Securing exposed hinges

These hinges can be filled with nonremovable pins that ruin a thief's chance at entering through the door. When replacing hinges be sure they are installed with the "pin" side facing inside the door frame or use hinges that have a welded hinge pin.

Fences

Modify wood fences so that they are at least one foot off the ground. This lets you see if anyone is hiding behind them.

Trimmed hedges, trees and shrubs

Make it difficult for thieves to conceal themselves or stolen property.

Double hung windows

Secure them by drilling through the corners of the sashes and inserting a removable metal pin.

Barred windows

Homeowners can prevent break-ins through basement space by installing metal grilles across the frames. However, if the basement is being used as living quarters, at least one window must have a quick-release mechanism for easy exiting in case of fire. Call the Tacoma Fire Department at 253-591-5740 for information on safety code requirements.

Radio

When homeowners leave their radios playing, while they're away, thieves are inclined to think someone's home.

Interior lights

A couple of lights left on at night suggests that someone's home. Be sure to put them on timers and regularly change the time they go off and on.

Door (eye) viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn't have a window, it should have a wide angle (180 degrees or more) lens. Install a second door viewer at a height suitable for children too.

Well-secured sliding glass windows

Secure sliding glass windows the same way that sliding glass doors are.

A stiff door frame

Reinforce the door frame by filling empty spaces between the door jamb and 2x4 stud with solid piece of wood and shims. This will prevent a thief from pushing or prying back the doorframe.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Keys

It's best not to leave keys outside at all. Leave them with friends or neighbors you trust.

Deadbolt locks on doors

Secure doors with all-metal deadbolt locks. Single-cylinder deadbolts conform to the Fire Code for residential buildings, allowing safety as well as security. Be sure that the deadbolt throw goes at least 1" into the door frame and that the "strike plate" is installed with at least a 3" wood screws.

Porch/walkway lights

High efficiency lights with a photo control or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Exterior house lights

Security lights with a motion detector will light up the side area of your house when prowlers approach. make sure you have lights on in the back of the house, too.

Garage door

When the garage is securely locked, thieves must resort to a more difficult means of entering a home. It also keeps them from stealing the property stored in the garage.

Sliding glass doors

A dowel placed in the lower track and flathead screws installed in the upper track prevent thieves from sliding or lifting the door open. Removable pins in the frames will hold the door in place.

Easily readable house numbers

It's easier for police to locate a home in a hurry if the house numbers are large and well-lit. Did you know that in the City of Tacoma, properties are required to address numbers on them? Put house numbers in the back of your house too, if you have an alley.

BEWARE decals

"Beware" decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Burglar alarms

Thieves really lose their cool when they set an alarm system off. These systems vary widely in sophistication, so it pays to shop around.

