



CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Safety Starts at Home

1. Make sure your house is well lit. Turn on outside lights, spotlights, motion lights, etc. Leave several inside lights on timers while you are away to give your home that lived in look.
2. All exterior doors should be steel or made with a solid core. Deadbolts should be used to lock and secure your doors. A good deadbolt should have a 1" throw. If you have glass within 40" of the lock a burglar could reach in and unlock the door. A double cylinder lock (this type needs a key on both sides to unlock) should be used if glass is near the lock.
3. With sliding glass doors a pin through the frame, a locking device or broomstick in the track will help prevent the door from being opened from outside.
4. Do not leave a spare key hidden outside your house. Do not leave extra keys to your home or vehicle inside any of your vehicles, even if they are parked inside your garage.
5. Landscaping should not create hiding spaces or block windows or doors of your residence. Trees and shrubbery should be properly pruned to keep them from providing access to upper floors and creating blind spots.
6. Secure windows with locks or pins for both closed and partially opened positions. Use blinds and curtains for privacy.
7. Remove anything an intruder could use to gain access to your home i.e., ladders, wood, tables, chairs, lawn tools and children toys.
8. As an added since of security some residents have installed alarm systems. Consult with alarm companies for differences in the systems and decide which would benefit you. **The alarm system can only help if it used.** The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department requires that alarm systems be registered with the police department.