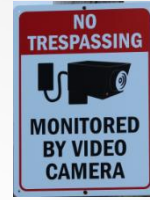




Tips to Protect Against Burglaries

by Rajiv Bhateja



- Signage:
 - Make your property **appear well-protected**
 - Get a **Beware of Dog** sign - even if you don't have a dog
- Keep valuables **out of the primary bedroom** or home office. Use the garage, kitchen or other unusual locations.
- Buy a small **decoy safe** and put some costume jewelry or screws in it. Keep it in your primary bedroom.



- Security Systems:
 - **Wired** security systems are more reliable than wireless. And **jam-proof**.
 - Some wireless systems are jam-resistant: <https://bit.ly/cr-wireless-jam>
 - Make sure your system has glass breakage detection and backup power



- Cameras:
 - A **video doorbell** that can call your phone when someone rings
 - **AI cameras** alert you to **vehicles** and **people**, ignoring animals/wind/insects
 - Some **outdoor** cameras can turn on switches/lights **inside** the house
- Consider having your alarm system **call law enforcement directly**. (Check with law enforcement and your security company if this is allowed.)
- Install **motion detectors outside** that turn on **lights inside**. This makes it look like someone is home and heard something.
- Gates and fences help but be aware that burglaries have occurred despite them
- A **pry-resistant security mailbox** keeps mail safe. Cheap ones are easily forced.
- Have a friend set out and put away **your bins on waste collection day**
- Use the **USPS informed delivery** to keep track of your mail. Use vacation hold and notify law enforcement of extended absences
- Use police/sheriff offer **"vacation watch"/"patrol check"** service while your traveling
- Join (or start!) your **Neighborhood Watch** group
- See tips on staying safe online at: <https://www.losaltoshills.info/cybersecurity>

General Safety Tips

- Make sure you're signed up for **AlertSCC**, the County's emergency alert system:
<https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC>
- And **Nixle**, the local city emergency notification system:
<https://www.everbridge.com/products/nixle/>
- Make an **emergency supply kit** (or buy one)
- Use **freeze dried foods** for long shelf life
- Store **water for at least 5 days** (refresh every 6 months)
- Keep a spare pair of glasses and prescription medications in your emergency kit
- Check out <https://ready.gov> for more emergency preparedness tips
- Keep local law enforcement numbers in your phone for when traveling:
SCC Sheriff: **408-299-2311**
Los Altos Police: **650-947-2770**
- Install an **earthquake gas shutoff valve** and/or an **excess flow gas valve**
- Keep emergency supplies in your home as well a smaller kit in each vehicle
- Keep some cash in case credit card systems are down
- Canned fuel lasts several years. Keep some canned ethanol-free 4-cycle engine fuel on hand for gasoline cars. Also canned 2-cycle fuel for any gasoline generators.
- Know your neighbors and have their contact information on hand
- Have a designated out of state contact in case your family gets separated
- Make a video of your belongings for insurance (use the NAIC Home Inventory App)

