

# COLONIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## HOME SECURITY SURVEY

This survey is for YOUR PRIVATE USE ONLY. It is designed to help you identify security issues in YOUR home.

If you have any questions, please call the Community Services Unit at 782-2662 or visit them at [www.colonie.org/police](http://www.colonie.org/police).



### Exterior

Are bicycles, mowers and ladders locked up inside?
Are all of your bushes, trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate areas for a person to hide near your window and doors?
Is your house number visible from the street?
Can your neighbors see your home without obstruction?
Are all of your entrances lit well enough?
Is your house well lit at night to illuminate all exterior sections of your home?
Do you use motion detectors or photo cells?

### Vacations

Do you ask trusted neighbors to watch your house if you are going to be away?
Do you ask your neighbors to maintain your property when you are going to be away?
Do you arrange for a friend or neighbor to come by and check on your home when you plan on being away for several days or longer?
Do you leave a key with a trusted neighbor rather than leaving one hidden outside?
Do you stop mail or newspaper deliveries when you are going to be away?
Do you request the police department to check your house during long term absences.

### Doors

Do you leave a key with a trusted neighbor or family member rather than leaving one hidden outside?
Do all of your exterior doors have a good quality deadbolt lock with no less than a 1" throw?
Are all latch-strike plates on your exterior doors secured with at least 3" screws?
Do your exterior doors with glass within 40" of the lock have double-cylinder deadbolts installed on them?
Do all your exterior doors without glass have a wide-angle door viewer installed for identifying visitors?
Are your entrance doors solid core and strong enough to withstand excessive force?
Do your door frames fit snugly around your exterior doors?
Have the locks been changed since moving into your home or apartment?
Do you always lock all doors and windows when home for the night or when you leave the residence?
Do all of your sliding glass doors have at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a track lock?</li> <li>▪ an insertion pin lock?</li> <li>▪ a hinged door bar?</li> <li>▪ a metal or wooden dowel in track?</li> </ul>
Does your exterior main door and the door from the garage into your home have quality dead bolts?
Do you always use them?
Do you close your overhead garage door, even when you are home?
Do you secure your overhead garage door with a lock when you are away?
Do you remove vehicle keys when the garage is locked?

## Interior

Do you use automatic timers on lights, televisions and radios in your house?
Does your house have the appearance that someone is home?
Do you secure your valuables such as money, wallets, pocketbooks and jewelry out of sight?
Do you have an alarm system?
Do you use it?
If not, have you considered getting one?
Have you recorded the make, model, serial numbers and model numbers of all your valuable or large ticket items?
Have you etched your driver's license number or secret number on all your valuables?
Have you photographed items such as jewelry, china, and crystal for identification purposes?
Does your telephone answering machine avoid announcing "We're not home right now"?
Do you have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors properly placed in your home? Do they work properly?
Are all weapons and guns stored in a safe place such as a locked box, safe or vault?
Do you record and keep in a secure place all of your credit card and ATM numbers together with phone numbers to cancel them in the event they get lost or stolen?
Do you have a cellular phone available in your home in case phone lines are not working?
Do you keep most of your cash in the bank?

## Windows

Do all of your windows have proper and secure locks on them?
Have your double hung windows been pinned or have key locks?
Have your window locks been installed to allow ventilation while maintaining security?
Can your basement windows be properly secured?
Do you check to see if all of your windows are locked before leaving the house?
Are window air conditioners secured from the inside?

# CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- ✓ Don't leave money, wallets, pocketbooks or valuables out in plain sight where they can be seen from the outside looking in.
- ✓ If you are locked out of your house, could you still get in? If you can, so can a burglar!
- ✓ Properly secure ALL windows, doors, sliding doors and garage doors when not at home and during sleeping hours.
- ✓ If you have an alarm system, use it.
- ✓ Instead of hiding keys around the outside of your home, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- ✓ Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights and leave them on at night. A motion detector and photocells are helpful.
- ✓ Keep shrubbery pruned back so it does not hide doors and windows from view of your neighbors.
- ✓ Remove ladders and articles that can be used to gain access to windows.
- ✓ When returning home, if something looks questionable - a slit screen, broken window or an open door - do not go in. Call the police from a neighbor's house or a cell phone.
- ✓ At night, if you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can and then call 911. If you cannot leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police.
- ✓ Visit [www.colonie.org/police](http://www.colonie.org/police) to request house checks when you go on vacation.