

Crime prevention and public awareness are essential tools in reducing the crime rate in our communities. Through knowledge and awareness, every individual can have the ability to assist us in successfully combating crime. The following programs are available to help you, your family, and your community.

Citizen's Advisory Committee

From September through May, this committee of concerned residents and police officers meets once a month to discuss and share community issues, crime prevention tips, and solutions to these problems.

Home Security & Business Security Surveys

Call to have a certified Crime Prevention Officer conduct a FREE CONFIDENTIAL security check of your home or business. Items that will be checked include locks, deadbolts, shrubbery, windows, and lighting. Allow us to help make your home or business a "TOUGH TARGET."

House Check Request

Going out-of-town soon? You can use this program to request a police officer to perform a house check while you're away.

Neighborhood Watch

Help establish a program to reduce crime and the fear of crime in your community. This program will show you how to observe and report suspicious activity and crimes in progress. Your phone call to report these incidents can be anonymous. An active watch program will help reduce crime.

Learn more about these programs at www.winterspringsfl.org/police.



Winter Springs Police Department

300 North Moss Road
Winter Springs, FL 32708
Emergency: 911
407-327-1000
www.winterspringsfl.org



Home Security

Winter Springs
Police Department

Winter Springs Police Department
www.winterspringsfl.org

Exterior Doors

All exterior doors should be either metal or wood. For added security, use strong door hinges on the inside of the door, with non-removable or hidden pins. Every entry door should be well lighted and have a wide-angle door viewer so you can see who is outside without opening the door.

Sliding Glass Doors

Sliding glass doors can offer easy access to your home. A way to improve security on existing sliding glass doors by installing keyed locking devices that secure the door to the frame; adjust the track clearances on the doors so they can't be pushed out of their tracks or put a piece of wood or a metal bar in the track of the closed door to prevent the door from opening even if the lock is jimmied or removed.

Windows

Most standard double-hung windows have thumb turn locks between the two window panels. Don't rely on these—they can be pried open or easily reached through a broken pane. Instead, install keyed locking devices to prevent the window from being raised from the outside, but inform everyone in your household where to locate the keys in case of an emergency. Some jurisdictions have restrictions on this type of lock—check with your local law enforcement before you install them. An easy, inexpensive way to secure your windows is to use the “pin” trick. Drill an angled hole through the top frame of the lower window partially into the frame of the upper window. Then insert a nail or eyebolt. The window can't be opened until you remove the nail. Make a second set of holes with the windows partly opened so you can have ventilation without intruders.

Locks

Strong, reliable locks are essential for effective home security. Always keep doors and windows locked—even a five minute trip to the store is long enough for a burglar to enter your home. Utilize quality keyed knobs as well as a deadbolt. Deadbolts can withstand the twisting, turning, prying, and pounding, unlike the regular keyed knobs. When choosing a deadbolt, look for features such as a bolt that extends at least one inch when in the locked position, to resist ramming and kicking; hardened steel inserts to prevent the bolt from being sawed off, and a reinforced strike plate with extra long mounting screws to anchor the lock effectively. These locks are especially effective for doors with the glass within 40 inches of the lock—prevents an intruder from breaking in. Some jurisdictions do not allow these locks—check with your local law enforcement or building code authorities before installing a double cylinder deadbolt.

Lighting

Lighting is one of the most cost-effective deterrents for burglary. Indoor lighting gives the impression that a home is occupied. If you are going to be away from your home, consider using automatic timers to switch interior lights on and off at preset times. Outdoor lighting can eliminate hiding places. Install exterior lighting near porches, rear and side doorways, garage doors, etc. Entryways to your home always should be well lighted. Place lights out of reach from the ground to prevent the bulbs breaking. Aim some lights away from the house so you can see if anyone is approaching, or install motion sensing lights, which turn on automatically as someone approaches.

Shrubs & Landscaping

Your house walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the main entrance and away from private areas. The landscaping should provide maximum visibility to and from your house. Trim shrubbery that could conceal criminal activity near doors and windows. Provide light on areas of dense shrubs and trees that could serve as hiding places. Cut back tree limbs that could help thieves climb into windows, and keep yard fencing low enough too avoid providing hiding places for criminals.