

Home Safety While You Travel

The Winter Springs Police Department wants you to prepare accordingly before leaving your home for either a short or extended period of time.

DO make your home appear occupied when you are away. Leave a light on and have a sound playing.

DO keep your doors, windows, and garage locked always.

DO NOT leave notes indicating when you will return home.

DO NOT leave spare keys under doormats, in mailboxes, or over the door frame.

DO arrange for a friend to pick up your newspapers, flyers, and mail.

DO schedule your lawn to be mowed.

DO leave a key with a trusted neighbor or relative.

DO NOT publicize your planned absence on social media.

DO fill out the Winter Springs Police Department's House Request Check form online. We'll send an officer by your home to check on it while you're away.

DO NOT leave valuables lying around in plain sight.

By implementing these recommendations, you will be practicing the 4 D's of crime prevention (deter, delay, deny, and detect), and making your home a reduced opportunity for burglary.



Winter Springs Police Department

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



Reducing Criminal Opportunity

Winter Springs
Police Department

Winter Springs Police Department
www.winterspringsfl.org

Reduce Opportunity

Use simple, precautionary tips to make your home too difficult for burglary.

Burglars are opportunists who do not like to make noise or be delayed. To them, it matters little if the duration of your absence from home is short or long. They know the typical weak points in home security and know where to look for valuables. Here are some proactive procedures you can use to **deter, delay, deny, or detect** a burglar.

Proofing Your Home

Exterior

Trim shrubbery and trees which obstruct a clear view of entrances and windows of your home. Don't give a burglar cover and more time to work unobserved.

Lighting

Ensure the entrance areas to your home are well-lit and out of reach from ground level. A high-pressure sodium lamp is the most efficient type of bulb. Invest in inexpensive timers, sensor spotlights, or electrical photocells that will turn lights off and on.

House Numbers

The [City of Winter Springs Ordinance 9-374](#) requires that every building owner affix its house address number to be clearly visible from 100 feet. Distinct house numbers assist neighbors with reporting suspicious activity and allow responding officers to locate the source of the complaint quickly.

Entry Doors

Your entry doors are a part of your total security system. We recommend installing solid core or wood staved doors at least 1-3/4" thick. There should not be more than 1/8" clearance between the door and its frame. If you have glass, it should be located at least

40" from the lock to prevent breaking the glass and reaching in to unlock the door.

Door Hinges

Ensure your entry doors' hinges are located inside, safe from being picked and removed from the frame.

Locks

Many doors contain inexpensive, key-in-knob locks. These locks offer very little security and are easily broken. We recommend using a single cylinder deadbolt lock. Ensure the lock has the following features:

- Bolt or throw that extends at least one inch from the edge of the door.
- Connecting screws that hold the lock together inside the door.
- Anchoring a strike plate to the door frame with three-inch long screws.
- Reinforcing sleeve can be added to the door to increase the quality of the lock.

Sliding Patio Doors

If you have a sliding patio door, be sure that you have installed an anti-slide bolt, locking bar for the sliding door track or track lock, and a key locking device.

Swing Doors

These doors are usually hinged on the outside and expose hinge pins to easy removal. We recommend installing heavy duty surface bolts on the inactive leaf of the door.

Windows

Ensure that all your windows lock. We recommend purchasing special key locks for windows; however, be sure everyone in your home knows where the key is located in case of emergencies. If you have double hung windows, secure them with a pin lock. For street-level windows, consider installing (emergency-friendly) grating or grills.

Garages

Garage doors should be kept locked except when in use. We recommend purchasing a garage lock. Most garage doors are constructed of thin plywood or hardboard panels and can be easily broken. We recommend securing the door by either of two methods:

- Drill a hole into the track just above a hinge and insert either a heavy duty removable steel pin or use a good padlock. This will prevent up and down movement.
- Drill a hole into the end of the slide bar and insert a good padlock to prevent side or unlocking movement of the slide bar.

Garage Windows

All garage windows not used for ventilation should be sealed permanently. Louvered or jalousie windows can be secured by applying a sealant to each pane at the top and bottom. This will make it difficult to remove any panes and gain entry.