



TITLE GUARANTY
HAWAII

HOMEOWNER SAFETY

Owning a home certainly entails a lot of responsibility. For example, did you know it only takes four to five minutes to break into a house? Taking the time to prepare your home against burglaries, draft emergency contingencies, and overall, just being proactive about homeowner safety can go a long way.



Homeowner Basics

What many people don't think about is if their home is safe, and how to properly react if a safety hazard does arise so that a minor problem doesn't become a major catastrophe. The top five things ever homeowner should know:

1. Make sure smoke alarms are operable.
2. Know where your water shut-off valve is and ensure it is operable.
3. Know how to shut off water flow to the hot water heater.
4. Know where to shut off the gas.
5. Know where your electrical panel is and how to shut it off.



Emergency Preparation

Create an emergency plan

- Where are the exits?
- Are your kids prepared and informed?
- Where will you meet?
- Is there a second-floor alternative escape route?
- Do you have flashlights?

Is your address visible?

- In an emergency, you want ambulance or fire crews to find your home as easily as possible.

First Aid Kit

- Where is it located?
- Is it well stocked?

Children

- Is your garage door safe to keep from closing on your child?
- Are your outlets safe from little fingers?
- Is your kitchen a danger zone for children – knives, heat, and heavy objects?

Pets

- Where will you take your pet in an emergency?
- Is there someone to care for your pet if you're unavailable?



Securing Against Burglary

Simple Security Tips

Doors – Make sure you have strong doors. Even the most efficient lock, if it is placed in a weak door, will not keep out a determined burglar. A peephole or a wide-angle viewer in the door is safer for identifying visitors than a door chain.

Locks – Deadbolt locks are best. They usually are locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder (where the key is inserted) should be pick-resistant.

Windows – Key locks are available for all types of windows. For windows at street level or on fire escapes, consider installing metal accordion gates.

Vacation Tips

- Tell dependable neighbors when you plan to be away and join with your neighbors to keep a close watch on what's happening in your area.
- Have mail picked up, forwarded or held by the post office.
- Stop newspaper deliveries.
- Lower phone ringer so it can't be heard from outside.
- Leave blinds open to their usual position.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed.
- Ask a friend or neighbor to hold your deliveries.
- Use automatic timers to turn lights on and off in various parts of the home at appropriate times.

Correct Weakness

- "Case" your house or apartment just as a burglar would.
- High fences and shrubbery can add to privacy, but can also be an asset to a burglar.
- Exterior lights and motion detectors can reduce the darkness.
- Simple security devices – nails, screws, padlocks, door/window locks, grate bars & bolts – can increase time it takes to break into your home.
- Invest in a burglar alarm. The most effective ones also ring an outside service.
- Re-arrange furnishings so valuables are not visible from outside.

Home Security Habits

- Establish a routine to lock doors/windows and turn on alarm systems.
- Avoid giving information to unidentified telephone callers and announcing your personal plans online or in public notices.
- Notify the police if you see suspicious strangers in your area.
- Don't carry house keys on a key ring with your home address; Also, don't leave keys with your car in a commercial parking lot or with an attendant.
- Don't hide keys in "secret" places outside your home – burglars usually know where to look.