

# Honolulu Police Department

*making Honolulu the safest place to live, work, and play*

## 21 Step Home Security Check List

1. **Doors:** The doors are one of the most common means of entry for burglars. Check type of locks (dead bolt locks preferred).
2. **Windows:** Always lock your windows. Conventional locks that come with the windows should not be relied upon as they can easily be defected. *Note: Remember every bedroom window (both up and downstairs) should have a fire exit if there are no other means to exit the building. Never install anything, security device or not, that would prevent an emergency exit from a bedroom window.*
3. **Street Address:** Your house street address should be on the front of your building and /or curb. These numbers should be sizable enough (at least 3 inches in height) so they can be easily observed from the street or a distant location. Also it is suggested that these street numbers be reflective, so they can more easily be seen at night.
4. **Street Lights:** Good well functioning street lights are an important deterrent to burglary as they illuminate the streets and exteriors of the neighborhood houses.
5. **Exterior Lights:** Good exterior lighting of a house and surrounding area is an excellent deterrent to burglary, vandalism and such criminal as prowlers and peeping toms.
6. **Landscaping and Shrubbery:** Make sure to trim or cut away from any window or other place of entry any landscaping, trees, shrubbery or plants that would provide an area or place of concealment while attempting to gain entry.
7. **Signs, Decals and Stickers:** have anti-burglary warnings such as neighborhood watch or operation ID stickers and decals on your windows, and doors. These warnings help to deter potential burglars.
8. **Mail Box:** Your mail box should be big enough to handle all of the mail you receive. The mail box should be where it can be seen and observed by your neighbors. If possible place your street address on your mailbox and not your name.
9. **Alarm System:** If your dwelling is equipped with an alarm system, it should be properly mounted and located so your neighbors can *hear it*. The alarm however should be concealed and out of public view.
10. **Peep Hole:** A peep hole should be installed on the front door to provide a view of any person at the door. Once it's installed be sure to use it and never open your door to strangers.
11. **Garage Door:** Make sure your garage door is closed and locked at all times. It is an open invitation for the suspect to assume that nobody is home and to burglarize your home if it is left open. Your garage door should be equipped with a good lock that you use both when you are home and away.

12. **Garage Windows:** Make sure garage windows are locked at all times. Windows located in the back of the garage are easily accessible and should be reinforced with iron grill or mesh screening to deter burglars from entering.
13. **Tool Sheds or other structures:** All outside structures such as tools sheds, storage containers, and bins (including garbage cans), could assist a burglar to break into or gain entry to your house, i.e., ladders, tools, etc, and should be stored in a locked garage, tool shed or put away out of sight.
14. **Sliding Glass Doors:** Sliding glass or patio doors are a favorite way burglars break into and gain entry into your home. Always make sure your sliding glass door(s) are locked and reinforced. Further, sliding glass doors must be secured from being forced open (sideways) or being lifted or pried out of their tracks.
15. **Fences:** Burglars don't like fences since they provide an obstacle to them in the event they need to escape quickly. Also fences prevent burglars from carrying away large or bulky valuable items. Make sure your fence gate is locked at all times. *Note: Be careful on the type of fencing used. Some fences may conceal the burglar on your property rather than to deter them.*
16. **Dog Sign:** Dog signs such as "BEWARE OF DOG" are a good deterrent to burglars. This is true even if you don't have a dog. Place your warning signs in a conspicuous location, so it can be seen from a distance.
17. **Backyard Lighting:** Good backyard lighting (flood lights work well) serves as a good deterrent to burglary and also enhances the safety of the backyard area. Backyard lighting should bathe the entire area to illuminate any vulnerable areas and potential entry points.
18. **Rear Windows:** Rear windows are a favorite entry for burglars. First make sure all back windows are locked and secured at all times. Security measures recommended for back windows, such as installing iron bars or grills and placing burglar alarm decals and other warnings on the back windows.
19. **Vents:** Any vent(s) that lead to a cellar or basement should be reinforced with metal bars.
20. **Roof Entrance:** Any roof, skylight or potential ceiling entrance, should be reinforced, barred, or screened so as to prevent a burglar from gaining entry.
21. **Cellar Doors:** make sure your cellar door(s) are always locked. Many times cellar doors are out of sight of the public or neighbors. Secure your cellar door with a good dead bolt or padlock.