PREVENT GARAGE DOOR BREAK-INS

Garages can sometimes be the most vulnerable area of the home and they are often the entry point most targeted by thieves because of the easy access to the home. Here are some tips to help secure your garage and protect it from theft.

**ALWAYS CLOSE YOUR GARAGE DOOR**
This may seem obvious, but just drive through any residential neighborhood and you’ll likely see a few wide-open garage doors. This is an invitation to burglars and at the very least, you’re allowing passersby to easily view the contents of your garage.

**INSTALL MOTION-SENSITIVE LIGHTS**
Homes and garages with poor exterior lighting become more appealing targets for burglars. Ensure all entry points are well-lit. Constant lighting supplemented by motion sensitive lighting is best.

**REINFORCE THE GLASS ON THE GARAGE DOOR**
Add vinyl adhesive to reinforce garage windows. You can also opt for a frosted or translucent glass design to allow sunlight in while obscuring contents inside.

**DON'T LEAVE GARAGE DOOR REMOTE IN YOUR CAR**
A garage door remote is basically another key into your home and thieves won't hesitate to use it if they find it. Opt to use a remote on a keychain.

**INSTALL AN INTERIOR MANUAL GARAGE DOOR LOCK**
When leaving on a vacation or for extended periods of time, disconnect automatic door motor and install a manual lock.

**TIE EMERGENCY RELEASE CORD**
Tying your emergency release cord into a small ball will make it more difficult to reach by thieves who manage to break the garage windows.

**INSTALL SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS**
There should be at least 1 exterior mounted camera facing the street and registered with the D.A.'s office.

**SECURE ANY VALUABLES**
Keep all tools in cabinet systems with locks and be sure to hang and lock any bicycles. As much as possible, try to avoid keeping valuable items in the garage or inside vehicles.

**HAVE A QUALITY, FUNCTIONING GARAGE DOOR**
Garage doors should be as secure, sturdy, and well-built as your front door and should remain in good condition and tight fitting. Deadbolts should also be added to the garage-to-house door.

**INSTALL INTERIOR MAIL SLOT HOOD COVER**
If the garage door is equipped with a mail slot, a hood cover will prevent any view into the garage and its contents, eliminating enticement to enter.

For additional information, please contact SF SAFE at (415) 553-1984 or visit sfsafe.org
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ANATOMY OF A SAFE GARAGE

Constant lighting
Night time lighting is recommended for property.

Motion-sensitive lighting
To supplement constant night time lighting.

Surveillance camera
Install at least 1 camera facing the street.

Reinforced windows
They should be translucent or frosted to obscure or eliminate view into the garage.

Mail slot
The mail slot should have a hood to eliminate view into the garage.

Your home is only as safe as its weakest entry point.

Your garage is an important part of your home and securing your garage is one of the most essential steps to securing your entire home. It is always recommended to regularly check and update your home's security system and safety measures.

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