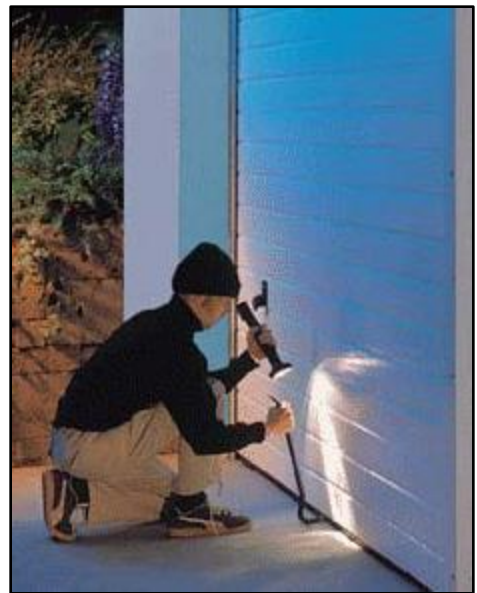


Here are some old-fashioned ways to prevent threats to property

Approach home theft from the offender's point of view. Homeowners can reduce the chances that their home will be targeted, by making their properties less vulnerable to intruders.

1. For a more affordable alternative to expensive security systems put a home security sign in your yard without actually obtaining the service. The sign convinces would-be burglars that your home is in fact protected by a security system, which makes them less inclined to target your property. "Just think from a burglar's point of view: 'Am I going to break into the building or the home that has a security system?'" 'Or am I going to go next door to the one that doesn't?' "
2. Beware of the garage: Garages are a common entry point for burglars. Open garage doors serve to advertise your belongings to passersby, which increases the likelihood of theft. So, homeowners should make sure their garage door remains closed anytime present or not. Leave the would-be burglar wondering.
3. Be a good neighbour: Neighbours can play a key role in preventing home thefts. Homeowners on friendly terms with their neighbors are less likely to be victimized by other members of their community. At the same time, closely knit neighbors are more likely to call the police if they see someone suspicious poking around your property. "If they like you and they care about you and they are concerned about their community, then if they see something unusual going on then they will check it out or call the police," This is a basic premise of Rural Crime Watch – NEIGHBOURS LOOKING AFTER NEIGHBOURS. And you don't need to be Rural to practice this! Want a good Neighbour – BE ONE!
4. Keep valuables outside the bedroom: A burglar on the hunt for valuables in a home will make the master bedroom their first stop—since that's where the cash and jewellery are most commonly stored. So, if you do keep such valuables on your property, find another room to store them.
5. No land escaping: Burglars prefer to target homes that have hiding spots and escape routes in the yards, and abundant bushes and trees make for great cover, Houseworth says. As a result, yards with less shrubbery and more open spaces aren't particularly appealing targets. "If the home is open and relatively exposed, a burglar will think, 'I'm



going to go in, and if something goes wrong, how am I going to get out of here?' " Houseworth says.

6. Install motion sensors: Light is a great deterrent for nighttime break-ins. Houseworth recommends homeowners install motion sensors on outdoor lights that turn on automatically if someone triggers them. "I have mine hard-wired in, but they have some that are actually screwed in," he says.
7. Radio running: Noise helps prevent burglaries as well. Houseworth leaves his radio on all day so that would-be burglars think that someone is at home. "Your home is more likely to be burglarized during the day because they think that nobody is home," he says.
8. Free police inventory: Homeowners should be sure to remember the basics of home-theft prevention: keeping windows and doors locked at all times. For homeowners looking to go a step further, Houseworth suggests contacting the local police department and having an officer stop by the house for a safety checkup. "I don't know of any police department that if you call them and ask them to do an inventory of your home to help harden it, they won't come out free and give you advice on how to improve your home," Houseworth says.