

Best Practices in the Home

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National Crime Prevention Council



In the Home

► The Door

- Make sure you have sturdy, metal or solid-wood doors at all entries into your home.
- Install and use well-made deadbolt locks (1½-inch throw or greater) on all exterior doors.
- Make sure all exterior doors have peepholes.
- Light up entry doors.



In the Home (continued)

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▶ Around the house

- Trim the shrubbery around your doors and windows.
- Install an alarm.
- Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- Ask a law enforcement officer for a free home security survey.



If You Live in an Apartment or Condominium

- ▶ Be cautious around entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas.
- ▶ Be sure that your entry door has a deadbolt lock and a peephole.
- ▶ Are the mailboxes well-traveled, well-lighted, and do they have good locks?
- ▶ Leave music playing or a light on while you are gone.



Being Car-Wise

Being Car-Wise

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▶ Carjacking

Carjacking is stealing a car by force with a driver and/or passenger in the vehicle. While the chances of becoming a victim are slim, preventive measures can reduce your risk.

Being Car-Wise (continued)

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▶ What do carjackers look for?

- Intersections controlled by stop lights or signs
- Garages and parking lots for mass transit, shopping malls, and grocery stores
- Self-serve gas stations and car washes
- Residential driveways and streets as people get in and out of cars
- Highway exit and entry ramps

Being Car-Wise (continued)

▶ Getting in

- Walk with a purpose to your car and stay alert.
- Approach your car with your door key already in hand.
- Be cautious of people who approach you and ask for directions or hand out fliers.

Being Car-Wise (continued)

▶ On the road

- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up.
- When you come to a stop, leave enough room to maneuver around the other cars.
- Drive in the center lane to make it harder for would-be carjackers to approach the car.



Being Car-Wise (continued)

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▶ On the road (continued)

- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, call for help.
- If you think someone is following you, head for the nearest brightly lighted area or police station.
- If you are suspicious of an unmarked car with flashing police lights ordering you to stop, drive to a well-lighted area with plenty of people before stopping.

Being Car-Wise (continued)

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▶ Getting out

- Always lock the doors and take the keys when you leave your car.
- Park in well-lit areas, near sidewalks or walkways.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if the car is locked.
- Always look around before you get out and stay alert to the surroundings.