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**What Burglars Know that You Should Know**

**By Nigel Smithers**

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Professional burglars concentrate on easy targets because they know their chances of success depend on their coming and going without being noticed. So what can you do as a homeowner to make sure you are not inviting someone into your home who doesn't belong there?.

"As silly as it sounds," says Nigel Smithers, a retired police officer and the CEO of Watchdog Protection Industries, Inc., "the first thing you should do before you leave home for work or play, is make sure that all of your doors, including the garage door and side garage entrance, are locked. An incredibly large number of burglars don't even have to break into a home because homeowners simply forget to lock a swinging or sliding door."

Smithers also recommends you remember to attend to ground floor windows. "During the summer months especially, homeowners frequently open windows to take advantage of the evening air and forget to close them before they leave in the morning."

Aside from the obvious, Smithers also recommends homeowners make sure that they are not leaving subtle messages that no one is home. "Unfortunately, many homeowners subscribe to newspapers that are dropped on the driveway or front step after they depart for work. This is an open invitation to a professional burglar who, when canvassing a neighborhood, is observant enough to recognize an opportunity when he sees it," he said.

"A professional isn't likely to hit a home the first time he sees a newspaper on the driveway at noon, but he may take action if it becomes a pattern," he said.

To solve this problem Smithers recommends that homeowners either make arrangements to have their newspapers delivered to a location on the property that is not visible to the casual observer or that arrangements are made for a neighbor to pick it up when it's delivered.

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Another subtle invitation to a burglar is a security sign in the yard but no related stickers on windows. "Homeowners all too often think that the placement of a security sign in the yard will, in and of itself, convince burglars to move on.

This isn't the case," Smithers says. "If a professional sees that there are no window stickers accompanying that sign, he may take a closer look. It's an easy task to view through open curtains to confirm the presence of window sensors and/or motion detectors."

Apart from the basics, Smithers also recommends homeowners attend to the foliage adjacent to the home. "If bushes can be used to conceal the burglar's actions, they will be used," he said. "I don't recommend cutting them down, but a good trimming once a year will deprive a burglar the opportunity to use them to conceal his actions."

According to Smithers, the greatest defense lies in getting to know one's neighbors. "The first step to

home security involves neighborhood awareness. If everyone in the neighborhood is in the habit of attending to the presence of strangers, the less likely the burglar will bother to stick around," he said.

"While I don't recommend confrontation," he continued, "every stranger should know when he walks or drives through a neighborhood that he is being watched."

Nigel Smithers is a twenty year veteran of law enforcement and is the CEO of Watchdog Security Industries, Inc., a home and business security company serving Southern California. To learn more about crime in your city, visit

[http://www.watchdog-alarms.com/html/crime\\_stats.html](http://www.watchdog-alarms.com/html/crime_stats.html)

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### **Now You Can Keep Your Valuables Safe**

**By Mr. Merokee**

The best place to hide anything is in plain sight! For this reason, diversion safes are the perfect place in which to hide your valuables. The Chicago Crime Commission has said that a burglar spends an average of 8 minutes in the victim's home. They are looking for easy items they can grab and then exit within a very short timeframe.

So, put the odds in your favor with hidden safes. With a hidden safe or a diversion safe, you can increase your odds of keeping your valuables and treasured items protected! Simply hide your valuables inside the diversion safe which is made from an otherwise ordinary object and put it in its rightful place. No one will notice they are there. A regular object that is placed in a conspicuous

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location and doesn't look out of place, can fool burglars.

How do diversion safes or hidden safes work? The diversion safes are disguised as such things as genuine personal care items, genuine well-known household products and genuine food containers. Examples of these are a can safe, wall outlet, salt shaker, salad dressing jar, book, candle, flower pot diversion safe, beer and soda safe, etc. Some diversion safes also come in different titles and different brands. They are constructed to be undistinguishable from the genuine product and are even weighted to feel full. They look and feel like the real products, right down to the bar codes.

These hidden safes, once spread about your home, make it much harder to keep your valuables or money from being found by burglars and even friends and relatives who may have sticky fingers.

One of the biggest benefits of these safes is cost. The use of hidden safes in recommended hiding spots is an inexpensive alternative to the more highly priced safes you can buy for a whole bunch more money. Prices generally range from \$8.95 to \$20.00 which is way less than most conventional fireproof safes. Determined burglars can easily remove very heavy safes, even ones that are bolted down to the floor.

Help yourself and not the burglar; hide your valuables and treasured items in plain sight!

Merokee Enterprises is active in the "War on Crime". You can learn more about diversion safes at

<http://www.personal-defense-technology.com>

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