



# Home Property Self-Audit



Use this self-audit tool to help safeguard and keep your home and property safe. Check the boxes below that applies to your home or property. Make a plan to have all the boxes checked.

## Landscaping

- Trim your trees to maximize eyewitness potential for a clear line of site.
- Remove spiny, thorny or otherwise hostile vegetation around fencing and low-level windows.
- Trim trees to ensure they do not allow access to your second floor.
- Keep your landscaping groomed and maintained.
- Keep your backyard and its contents private and hidden so your neighbours and others can't see your backyard.
- If your property is fenced, ensure your gates are routinely locked.

## Lighting

- Install motion activated exterior lights.
- House numbers clearly visible from the road at night.
- All walkways leading to the residence well lit.
- Adequate illumination to prevent hiding near windows and doors.

## Your Neighbourhood

- Know your neighbour's names.
- Know your neighbour's street addresses.
- Call the police when you observe suspicious vehicles or people.
- Keep your doors locked when you are out in the backyard or garage.

## Doors and Locks

- Install solid steel exterior doors.
- Add a "Peep hole" on your exterior door.
- Ensure your sliding patio doors are secured by screws and/or bars.
- Use 3-inch screws on exterior strike plate.
- Deadlocks should have a minimum 1-inch throw into the door jamb using 2.5-inch screws.



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## Windows

- Use working lock mechanisms on all windows.
- Ensure your sliding patio doors are secured by screws and/or bars.
- Add security film to windows.
- Install semi-permanent security bars or grills to basement windows.

## When Away

- Cancel newspapers.
- Have interior lights on timers.
- Ensure your lawn is mowed and/or snow is removed.
- Ask trusted neighbours or friends to watch your home.
- Have your mail, newspaper etc. stopped, picked up or re-directed.
- Do not share that you are away on social media.

## Alarm System

- Install a security alarm system.
- Make sure your security system has a backup power supply.
- Ensure those watching your home know how to arm and disarm the alarm.
- Your alarm system should be loud enough for neighbours to hear.

## Garage

- Secure garage windows always.
- Do not leave garage door openers in vehicles parked outside of your garage.
- Remove hand tools like hammers, drills or pry bars.
- When away for extended periods, be sure to disconnect your garage door from the inside.

## Miscellaneous

- Keep ladders in locked areas.
- Always lock up tools and bikes even when they are stored in a shed or garage.
- Inscribe your valuables with a driver's license number.
- Have a video and written inventory of your valuables including serial numbers.
- Have a burglary resistant safe, bolted in place, storage container or hiding area for your valuables.
- Keep important papers such as your will, insurance, passports, stocks, bonds etc., kept off-site in a safety deposit box.

## Other ideas and suggestions for improved security:

- Close all windows even if you are away for a short time period.
- Install a residential surveillance video system, as per the by-law #30-2022.  
([View bylaws online at www.brantford.ca/ByLaw](http://www.brantford.ca/ByLaw))

