By JoANNE J. FALLS Agricultural Extension Agent

One of the most important lessons to be learned in safeguarding your home against burglars is to put yourself in the shoes of the criminal before you attempt to understand him, catch him or defend yourself against

A burglar doesn't begin inside your house. First, he has to find an easy point of entry or approach to your property. Begin examining the safety of your house by taking a walk around your block and then around your house, looking at the security of your property.

Reasonable lighting of your home is considered an effective method of crime prevention, as well

as a necessary safety precaution. Lighting is low in cost. easy to test and maintain and serves as a crime deterrent both by suggesting that people are home and by revealing the presence intruders.



It's a good.

idea to leave some lights on in the front of your home at night -- at the front door and also on the front porch or another nearby location (in case the first light burns out). If other households follow your example, the neighborhood will become a warmly lit walkway that discourages would-be burglars.

For those times when all is quiet for the night, light switches installed near the bedroom, controlling both interior and exterior lights, can bathe the whole house in light, discourage would-be intruders and calm jumpy

Central lighting controls can cost several hundred dollars, but once they are installed, they can be linked to the general security system so that lights will go on automatically in an emer-

The entire exterior of the house and yard should be illuminated. With the new developments in outdoor lighting, it should take about four lamps to illuminate your entire property and garage entrance. New outdoor lamps are also highly resistant to vandalism and accidental breakage.

Remember that very few people live in box-shaped houses. There will probably be sections of your property that will remain dark and in shadows.

Find these hidden areas by drawing an outline of your home in the center of a piece of paper, stick a pin where a light would likely be placed. and run straight lines from that pin past the outline of your house. When you find shaded areas that might escape beams of light, try moving the location of the light or adding another

Then go on to another light source and repeat the process. Pay particular attention to extensions or protrusions along outside walls.

Direct all security lights out for the house, not toward it to show it off. Follow these additional tips for other ways to discourage burglars: Daily routine:

· Maintain an adequate system of door locks and alarms.

· When answering the door, use a peephole or interview grill; never allow strangers to enter before checking their credentials and identity.

· Do not leave notes on the exterior your of home indicating that you will be gone for a short time.

· Use an all-purpose security

· Do not advertise or sell items in the paper using your name, address and phone number. Use a box num-

· Do not hide keys around the house exterior.

· If you are a woman living alone, use your initials rather than Mrs., Miss or Ms. on door, mailbox and in telephone directory.

· Place jewelry, negotiable securities and other expensive valuables in a bank safety deposit box.

· Don't make tools available to the intruder. Put ladders and screwdrivers, crowbars, and so forth, in a locked room, basement or garage.

· Keep all garage doors locked.

· Lock all doors and windows on all levels of the home at night or when leaving home.

· If you are leaving home for a few hours, leave the radio and a light on in the bedroom or upstairs level. Don't give your house a closed-down

· Never leave credit cards in an

unoccupied home.

When away on a trip:

USDA Choice

· Create the appearance that the bedroom light and radio. house is occupied.

paper, milk, and so forth.

· Turn telephone bell down if way. possible.

• Use a timing device to turn on a grass in summer or for someone to

· Notify the police and neighbors ter. · Cancel deliveries -- mail, news- that you will not be home.

· Park a second car in the drive-

· Arrange for someone to cut the

rshovel snow from your walk in win-

· Do not put an announcement of your absence in the paper or discuss it with strangers.

· Leave an extra key with a

neighbor so that your name may be inspected by police or a neighbor if necessary.

· Set trash cans inside.

· Turn heat down but not off: frost or ice on windows indicates an unoccupied house.





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