

Home security tips

There are several things you can do to secure your residence.

- Install deadbolt locks that have a 1-inch bolt or more; when engaged, the deadbolt should extend 1 inch past the edge of the door and into the doorframe. Screws fastening the strike plate should be 3 – 4 inches long. Use of multiple screws is highly recommended. These screws will anchor into the existing framing of the structure beyond the doorframe.
- Have strong quality doors with sturdy frames. Be sure to check local building and fire codes for compliance.
- Make sure all accessible windows have secure locks.
- Don't hide an extra house key outside under the doormat or in a fake rock or flowerpot.
- Always lock the doors to your home and garage. Don't forget to lock the service door between your house and attached garage. Installation of a single cylinder deadbolt is recommended.
- Leave exterior lights on during the evening or install motion-sensing exterior flood lights.
- Mark valuables, record model and serial numbers. Store these numbers in a known safe location. Writing them on or within the instruction manual for easy reference is one method.
- The police department's community outreach/crime prevention can advise you on how to reduce the likelihood of your property falling victim to criminal activity (e.g., vandalism, burglary, etc.). They can also advise on the City of St Louis Park's false alarm protocol and perform a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design survey to assess your residence's security. This is a free service provided to community and business members of St. Louis Park.
- Have a family member, neighbor or friend watch your home while you are away for an extended period. By doing so, it appears like "business as usual" at your residence.
- Do not share travel plans or any other time you will be absent from your residence on social media.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

To learn more, contact the police department's community outreach officer at 952.924.2661.