

## Residential Security Safety Tips

1. Install deadbolt door locks and window latches to help prevent break-ins. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw and a reinforced strike plate with three-inch screws.
2. Secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or piece of wood in the track. Install vertical bolts.
3. Keep your house visible from the street.
4. Prune shrubbery near your windows to avoid offering burglars a hiding place while they are breaking in.
5. Chain latches do not work, so you should be sure to use the peephole before opening the door. Be suspicious of deliveries you did not order. If you don't know who is at the door, DO NOT OPEN IT.
6. Program all your phones to automatically dial 911 and 305-234-2100 (non-emergency number for the Pinecrest Police Department).
7. Use timers on lights, radios and TV's in order to create the illusion that someone is home.
8. Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted.
9. A complete dusk-activated lighting system will make your home look occupied when you are still at work, out on the town, or away on vacation.
10. When you are away on a trip, have someone you trust collect mail and newspapers. Leave a car parked in your driveway. Keep some curtains open to make your house look occupied. Do not record a message on your answering machine telling people that you are away from home.
11. Make your whole neighborhood safer by organizing a community watch program.
12. Install a home security system that is monitored by a central station. Police response in Pinecrest averages under four minutes.
13. Immediately report any suspicious activity to the Pinecrest Police Department.