

If you hear a noise that sounds like someone breaking in or moving around, quietly call the police and wait calmly until they arrive. If you can leave safely, do so. Otherwise, lock yourself in a room, or, if the intruder enters the room you are in, pretend to be asleep.

Think carefully before buying a firearm for protection. Guns can be stolen and sold to anyone, or captured and used on you or the police. If you do own a gun, keep it locked up, with the ammunition secured separately, and learn how to use it safely.

Look beyond locks and alarms

Join or help start a Neighborhood Watch group. If one doesn't exist, ask your police or sheriff's department to help you start one.

Look around for things that could contribute to crime—poor street lighting, abandoned cars, vacant lots, littered playgrounds with broken equipment, homes that elderly people have trouble maintaining. Help organize a neighborhood clean-up/fix-up day.

Keep written records of all furniture, jewelry and electronic products. If possible, keep these records in a safe deposit box, fireproof safe or other secure place. Take pictures or a video, and keep purchase information and serial numbers if available. These help law enforcement agencies track recovered items.

If your neighbors are ever victims, help them out. Offer sympathy and support; help with meals, repairs, or baby-sitting.

United Against Crime

This crime prevention brochure is brought to you by Radio Shack, working together with the National Crime Prevention Council (which manages the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign) and the National Sheriffs' Association.

Radio Shack has formed a special partnership with these leading organizations to provide you with answers for security that can help make your life safer.

Join Radio Shack, the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Sheriffs' Association—United Against Crime.

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