



Spirit Lake Police Department

Home Security Evaluation

What is your Security Quotient?

The following test will help you evaluate your "Security Quotient" or the degree to which you have reduced criminal opportunity in your home. Naturally, we don't expect a score of 100%, but we do hope this questionnaire will serve as a guide to simple but important measures you can take to make your neighborhood a safer place to live! Put a check mark next to each question to which you answered "yes" and discover your "Security Quotient".

- I have trimmed all shrubbery that would conceal entrances to my house, especially basement windows.
- My house number is clearly marked on my house and illuminated by my porch light for quick recognition by emergency personnel.
- The exterior doors to my home are constructed of solid wood or metal and have strike plates and hinges installed with 3-inch screws.
- I leave exterior lights ON, front and back, during the hours of darkness, whether I am home or not.
- I have deadbolt locks or other recommended secure locks on all exterior doors, and I use them!
- All windows in my home are locked (not just latched) while I am away, especially basement windows.
- When I leave my home unoccupied, I leave a radio and lights on timers. In other words, my home has that lived-in look while I'm gone.
- I keep shed or garage doors securely locked when I'm gone.
- When I'm away overnight or longer, I alert neighbors to watch my house and ask a trusted neighbor or friend to pick up mail, change lights, mow lawns, etc.
- If I am going out of town for any period of time, I register for "Home Security Checks" with the Spirit Lake Police Department.

Give yourself 8 points for each box you checked

- 0 — 15: attention is necessary
- 20 — 35: consider improvements
- 40 — 55: you're doing a good job
- 60 — 75: excellent, way to go

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DOORS

- Solid wood or metal on all exterior doors.
- Install high quality deadbolt locks and use them.
- Be aware of the risks of windows in or near doors.
- Use a peep hole or wide-angle viewer in your doors.
- Secure strike plates with 3” minimum screws that penetrate the stud in the wall.
- Be cautious of mail slots and pet doors.
- Make sure your doorways are visible from the street and not obscured by shrubs, etc.

WINDOWS

- Make sure your windows have good locking mechanisms.
- Safety glaze is available to prevent glass from being broken.
- Make sure windows are visible from the street and not obscured by shrubs.
- Consider window coverings that prevent someone looking into the house and keep them closed, especially when you are not home.
- Be cautious of installing bars on windows that may prevent you from escaping from a fire.

LANDSCAPE

- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed to prevent concealment for a potential burglar.
- Privacy fence may also create concealment for a burglar.

LIGHTING

- Install good exterior lighting on all sides of your house.
- Timers on lights give your house the ‘lived-in’ look while you are away, especially in winter when it gets dark before you may get home from work.
- Motion sensor lighting is also a valuable tool to prevent burglary and theft.

ALARMS

- Audible alarms are another valuable tool in preventing burglaries.
- Be a wise shopper. Consider the pros and cons of different systems and buy from a reputable company.
- Remember, like a lock, an alarm is only effective if you *use* it.