



HOFFMAN BROWN COMPANY

INSURANCE






5000 Van Nuys Blvd. 6th Floor
Sherman Oaks, California 91403
(818) 986-8200 FAX (818) 986-8510
www.hoffmanbrown.com

SAFETY NOTES









Statistics indicate that three out of four U.S. homes will be burglarized in the next 20 years. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the average property loss in a burglary exceeds \$1,000. Enhancing the security of your residence is much easier than you think. Keep in mind that the time you spend now may save you thousands of dollars in the long run.

Security Tips

-  Inspect entry doors and door frames. External doors should be hinged from the inside, not the outside where burglars can simply un-screw the hinge. If you have sliding doors, place a bar or wooden dowel in the inside track to supplement the door lock.
-  Check to make sure all door and window locks are operable and replace or install any that are lacking or in disrepair.
-  Check outside lighting and replace burned out or dim light bulbs. Re-position security lights so they shine on key areas, such as doorways, garage doors, driveways, and around windows, including the backyard. If you don't have them, consider installing motion-detection lights around the perimeter of your home.
-  Trim shrubbery near windows and doors so they can't be used by intruders for cover.
-  Have a company install and monitor a central station burglar alarm to protect you and your family. Your alarm should be designed to detect intrusion from every point on all floors of your home.



Have A Worry-Free Vacation

-  Give a spare house key to a close friend or relative so they can keep an eye on the inside and outside of your home.
-  To make your home seem lived in, consider asking a trusted neighbor to use your driveway to park their car while you're away.
-  Purchase several light timers so you can set lights to come on in different rooms at different times during your absence.
-  Arrange to have your newspaper delivery suspended and have mail held at the post office or picked up daily by someone you trust. Arrange for someone to take your trash out on pick-up day and return the barrels afterward.
-  Avoid unwittingly inviting crime. Be careful whom you tell about your travel plans. Record a generic greeting on your answering machine rather than one indicating that you are out of town.
-  Before you drive away, double-check to be sure all doors and windows are locked and light timers are set. Make sure you have provided relatives or friends with your contact information so you can be reached in an emergency.



Helpful Tip: Protecting Your Son Or Daughter At School

Squeezed into that dorm room along with books and clothes are all of the must-have items of today's college set: a laptop computer, cell phone, MP3 player, television and a top-of-the-line mountain bike. That's a lot of expensive stuff. Be sure your homeowner's policy includes off-premises theft so that their personal belongings will be covered under your policy (subject to your deductible).

