

IS YOUR HOME SAFE?

From Laurie and Linda

Little known fact: A burglary occurs every 15 seconds in the United States, but there are several easy ways to keep your home from becoming a statistic.

DOORS - Your exterior door deadbolts should connect into a solid strike plate attached to a stud, and not just attached to a door jamb. If you have exposed hinges, a thief can simply remove the whole door with a screw driver!

SECURITY CAMERAS - These are a great deterrent, especially if the cameras are visible on the outside of your

home. You can also install them indoors. It's even better if the cameras have the capacity of uploading their footage online automatically so that a determined thief won't be able to destroy them. This way, the police will have great evidence—a nice photo of the burglar—and it will increase your chances of recovering any stolen property.

INTERNET - By all means enjoy that cruise to the islands, but don't tell the world that you aren't going to be home!!! If you use social media to communicate with friends, you should not announce that you will be on vacation for a while. If you do, your home may be ripe for the picking. And of course we all know that we should cancel delivery of newspapers while

we're away.

PET "ALARMS" - Whether you have a guard rabbit, dog or parrot, the truth is that animals aren't much of a deterrent. A dog's barking won't alert any neighbors that there's a break-in. After all, how many times have YOU ignored a neighbor's dog with their annoying yips? Plus...an experienced burglar carries pet treats to make friends with your fearless sentinel. Some thieves even target homes with dogs because it might mean that the house does not have a motion alarm system.

The old saying still holds true. **BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!!**