



## Home Security Checklist

Crimes of opportunity take only seconds to commit. Help prevent the opportunities! Take the time each day to verify you have done everything you in your power to prevent a crime of opportunity. [Anthem Neighborhood Watch](#) and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office recommend the following routine checks of your home and yards:

- ✓ Doors locked. Keep doors locked even when you are home and always do a "door check" before leaving the home - every time.
  - The side entry garage door should be locked unless in use.
  - Don't hide a key outside the home.
  - Change the locks on your home periodically. Know exactly who has keys to your home; limit this number. If you are unsure who has a key, change the locks. Even those trusted with keys can misplace them or lose them and most likely, your name or address is on the key.
  - New owners: change the locks. You have no idea how many may have a key to your home.
  - Doggie door large enough for a teen or small adult to crawl through? Close it when you go to bed at night or go out at night. Medium to small dogs/cats should not be outdoors at night unattended. They become an opportunity to an animal predator.
  - Ensure you have deadbolt locks on all your doors/security doors.
- ✓ Windows locked.
  - When your windows are closed, be sure they are locked and a security bar that prevents windows from being pried open is placed in the window track.
  - Verify the window in your third-car garage is locked and a security bar is placed in the track.
  - Don't leave any window open when you leave the home. Close and lock them.
  - Check the kids' rooms or guest rooms to ensure these were not left unlocked.
- ✓ Garage closed and locked.
  - Close your garage door when it is not in use. Even when carrying in groceries - close the door. If you are not in the garage, close the door. Crimes of opportunity take only seconds. A bike could be gone by the time you carry in grocery bags and return for more.
  - Take an extra second every time you pull out of the garage to ensure the door is completely closed before pulling away.
  - Always lock the side entry door of your garage (cannot emphasize this enough!)
  - Lock the garage door when you retire at night by pressing on the lock button on the control pad inside the garage (often under the open button).

- ✓ Gate to side yard locked. Always lock with a padlock the gate.
- ✓ Cars in the driveway locked.
  - Remove all valuables.
  - Raise and lock the windows.
  - Raise the convertible top.
  - Lock the car and verify the car is locked before walking away.
- ✓ Golf cart secure.
  - All valuables removed from golf cart if parked temporarily in a driveway (party, errand, etc.)
  - Key removed from cart and with the driver.
  - Cart is secured inside the garage for overnight parking or when not in use.
- ✓ Lighting operating properly on home and in yard.
  - All landscape lights and motion detector lights operating. Select a night each week to verify all your landscape lights are operational.
  - Replace burned out bulbs above the garage and home entry immediately. If you know your neighbor is out of town, be a good neighbor and replace the bulb for them.
  - Leave lights on inside the home when you leave for dinner with friends and on timers when you leave for vacation.
- ✓ Alarm activated. If you have an alarm - use it, even when you run to the store or take a walk.
- ✓ Vacation planning security steps verified.
  - Don't announce your plans to travel in public or tell all your friends of dates when you will be away (even on social media). Trust this information only with the one person who will watch your home and check on it when you are away.
  - Never post photos of a trip while away from the home. Wait until you return to share your trip photos.
  - Make arrangements for North Valley Posse Vacation Watch to check the perimeter of home while you are away: 602-456-2767.
  - Don't rush out the door without performing a full security check of the home, doors, garage, windows and lighting.
  - Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway periodically to make it appear someone is home.
  - Stop all mail and newspaper deliveries. Ask a neighbor to check your front porch for any deliveries.
  - Ensure your contact numbers are updated on the [gateaccess.net](http://gateaccess.net) website. This will be important if the gate personnel need to reach you (water running from garage, fire, etc.)

### **Around the Neighborhood...**

Know your neighbors, their kids and their friends and look out for each other.

- Be alert to what is going on in the neighborhood and around neighbors' homes.
- Let neighbors know if their garage doors are open.
- Call neighbors if there is suspicious activity happening around or near their home. If there is something suspicious occurring, tell your neighbor to call 911, or volunteer to call for them.
- Watch friends' homes when they're away. Trade keys and contact numbers. Volunteer to pick up mail or newspapers.

- If neighbors' newspapers are accumulating, or there are signs that neighbors are away and may have forgotten to stop delivery, try to contact them or move the deliveries to an inconspicuous place.
- Always have emergency numbers on hand and stored in cell phones.
- Join the [Anthem Neighborhood Watch](#) and volunteer to serve as a Block Captain.

### **Curfew Reminders**

In order to reduce juvenile crime, protect the citizens, including the children of Maricopa County, and to reinforce parental authority, Maricopa County enforces the following ordinance regarding curfew for minors:

- It is unlawful for any minor under the age of 16 to be away from their residence between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- It is unlawful for any minor over 16 and over and under 18 to be away from their residence between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

Exceptions: If the minor is accompanied by parent or guardian; has permission from a parent or guardian in an employment activity; it is an emergency; the individual is in the military; individual is on the sidewalk abutting their residence or on the next door neighbor's property with the consent of the neighbor.

### **Contact Numbers**

- **Emergency Police, Fire, Ambulance:** 911  
*Do not contact the gate personnel in an emergency. Dial 911.*
- **Anthem (east of I-17) non-emergency MCSO:** 602-876-1011
- **North Valley Posse Vacation Watch:** 602-456-2767
- **Vandalism or Graffiti in Anthem**  
To report vandalism or graffiti in progress: 911  
All other reports regarding vandalism or graffiti: 623-879-3060  
(ACC Parks & Facilities) [jmetcalf@anthemcouncil.com](mailto:jmetcalf@anthemcouncil.com)
- **Silent Witness:** Silent Witness is a crime reduction program and law enforcement tool that pays rewards for information about criminal activities that lead to the arrest of suspected criminals: 480-WITNESS.