

Are Your Doors Secure?

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

A burglary event occurs every 18.2 seconds in America, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This alarming statistic can be lowered by taking the responsibility of securing your property.

Properly functioning locks and even alarm systems are important to your home's security.

CHANGE LOCKS

Did you just purchase a home? You likely have begun the exciting process of setting up your belongings exactly how you imagined when you made the initial walkthrough. There's an important step that sometimes goes ignored, however.

When moving into a previously occupied home, one of the first things to do is change the locks. You have no way of knowing how many others have a copy of the keys and can gain access.

Your local locksmith can give you peace of mind by providing you with the only set of keys to your home's points of entry.

INSTALLING DEADBOLTS

One of the best things you can do to deter burglars is make it difficult for them to gain access to your home. Deadbolts can add an extra



level of security to all entry doors.

A deadbolt is a lock that features a hardened-steel bolt which cannot be opened without a key. There are two different styles – a single-bolt system and double bolts.

Single-bolt system: This type relies on a key to disengage the lock from the exterior of your home and an easy-

to-access handle from the inside. This is a popular choice but can be dangerous if your door is near a window, as a burglar can easily shatter the glass and reach in to unlock the bolt.

Double-bolt system: You'll need a key to unlock the bolt from both the inside and outside. While this can protect your point of access, it can be

incredibly dangerous for homeowners who must quickly escape a home due to fire or other type of emergency.

Get in touch with a local locksmith in your area to discover which type of deadbolt makes the most sense for your home. It is relatively inexpensive for a professional to install this type of lock that

REAL ESTATE 101

Going Keyless?

A keyless deadbolt lock offers the same amount of security as a keyed lock, with added conveniences, according to AngiesList.com. Keyless deadbolts allow you to set custom codes for friends, family members and neighbors, and there are no keys to keep up with. Some even work smartphone apps. Keep in mind, however, that if a stranger observes you putting in your code, or if the numbers printed on frequently used keys begin to fade, your security could be compromised.

adds extra security to your doors.

ALARM SYSTEMS

By activating a security-alarm system in your home, you can protect yourself from unwanted intruders. Most systems alert the police once activated and create loud alarms to scare away a burglar.

Talk to alarm-system installers in your area to discover innovative ways to protect your home and more importantly, your family.



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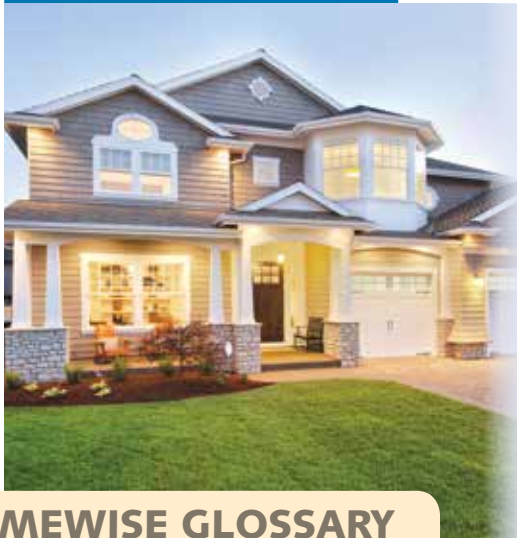
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HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

Counter offer: A response to an offer to enter into a contract, changing some of the terms of the original offer. A counter offer is a rejection of the offer (not a form of acceptance), and does not create a binding contract unless accepted by the original offeror.

SOURCE: California Bureau of Real Estate

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