

Rate Your Risk Your Risk of Burglary

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<https://secure.moses.com/www.rateyourrisk.org/burglary.html>

The following test lets you rate your actual risk of being **burglarized**(i.e. - Someone breaking into your home or apartment to steal something) . This test uses known risk factors taken from executive security courses/, police detectives, crime stats and security consultants. **Other Rate Your Risk tests** are more accurate and give you an easy way to determine what life style actions, habits or associations will raise or lower your risks. Some of the questions may seem odd but these factors impact murder statistics. Read each question. Click on the ones that you would answer **yes** and leave the answer boxes blank when you would answer **no** or if the question **doesn't apply**. Take it to see if there are safety tips you haven't considered...don't be overly concerned about scores. None of these tests are accurate for countries outside the United States (though they can be interesting). Most people find they have little risk but may find tips to reduce even those risks. These tests are a means to evaluate the risks in your lifestyle without a lecture. Don't panic if you have a high score... evaluate those factors that increase or decrease your risk.

1. Outside doors and windows of your home:

How many double hung windows (without keyed locks or pins) are reachable from ground level?

How many doors have glass within two feet of the lock? (Do not count doors with double cylinder locks)

- Do you have a sliding glass door without an auxillary locking device?
- Does the sliding glass door have no screws in the upper track to prevent lifting the door out of the track?
- Do you have French (glass patio) doors?
- Do you have a wooden door with only a lock in the doorknob?
- Do you have a chainlock with screws smaller than 1.5 inches?
- Do you have the same locks that were in your house before you moved in?
- Are all of your outside doors steel-insulated with deadbolts or jimmy-resistant deadlocks?

2. Details about your home:

- Do your phone lines enter your house within reach of the ground?
- Are your phone lines buried?
- Do you have any air conditioners that are turned off during hot weather when you are away for an extended period?
- Do you have an intercom near outside doors?
- Is your phone number in the phone book?
- Is your phone number listed semi-privately?
- Do you have an unlisted phone number?

3. **Alarms:**

- I have a burglar alarm on my house **or**
- I have no alarm on my residence.
- Does your alarm have a 30-watt siren or louder?
- Does your home have a perimeter alarm with an interior alert?
- Do you have an alarm that lets you know when someone is in your driveway?
- Is your driveway alarm a magnetic inductance alarm or other unseen sensor?
- Does your local alarm have a 10 hour or more backup battery?
- Do you have a noisy or mean dog that hates strangers?

4. **Security Habits:**

- Are your children untrained in answering the phone?
- Do you always pick up the phone and pause to listen for background noise before saying, "Hello"?
- Do you have caller ID on your phone?
- Do you have call trace on your phone?
- Do you regularly go to church?
- Do you ever leave exterior doors unlocked?
- Do you hide an extra key outside?
- Do you know the names of the people in all adjacent homes an apartments?

5. **Visitors:**

How many times per month do you have a babysitter in your home?

How many different part-time servants do you have in your home in a year?

How many full-time servants do you have in your home?

How many workers have been in your home in the last year to do repairs or remodeling?

How many teenage non-family members have visited or even stepped into your home in the last year?

6. **Valuables:**

Do you or your spouse have a large coin, stamp, antique, or other valuable collection?

Do you have an 8 piece or more silver service (solid, not plated)?

How many small color televisions do you have?

How many VCR's do you own?

How many purchased video movies do you own?

Do you have a home computer?

Is it a Mac or a PC?

Do you have a video game system (Sega, Nintendo, 3DO, Sony)?

Do you have liquor bottles that are visible to the outside?

7. **Publicity:**

Has any newspaper/magazine article pictured the interior of your home?

Does any newspaper/magazine article tell of an upcoming trip you will take?

Does any newspaper/magazine article tell of any future event, such as an awards ceremony, funeral, sports contest, etc. where you will attend?

Do you or your spouse have your name and home address printed in a company directory, church directory or other publication?

Do you have your name on your mailbox?

8. **More Security Habits:**

I have no answering machine or voice mail?

Does your answering machine say you are out?

Does your answering machine unemotionally ask for messages?

Do you get two or more hangup calls per week?

- Do you have call return on your phone service?
- Do you regularly use an unlighted entrance?
- Do you ever leave your house or apartment empty for an eight hour period more than once a week?
- Have you answered a detailed telephone survey or phone credit application in the last year?
- Are you a member of a neighborhood watch program?
- Do you have your state's abbreviation and license number on all your valuables?

9. Other Factors:

- Do you have your name or address on your keyring?
- Do you leave house keys on your key ring when attendants park your car?
- Do you ever leave notes to workmen?
- Have you or your family members lost entrance keys in the last year?
- Do you live in a corner house or a corner ground floor apartment?
- Do you use lights on timers?
- Do you leave a radio on during daily absences (audible on the outside of your house)?
- Do you leave mail in your car with the address visible?

10. Site Factors:

- Do you live 1000 meters or more from your nearest neighbor?
- Do you live out of view of the road?
- Do you park outside your home or apartment (not in a garage)?
- If you have a remote garage door opener to an attached garage, does the garage door lock on closing?
- Do you live in or within a mile of what is considered a high crime area?
- Do you live in what is considered a low crime area?
- Have any of your neighbors been burglarized in the last six months?