

Psych Out a Burglar!

By Susan Bartelstone, Crime Prevention Specialist

Crime Prevention 101
Keeping Yourself
Safe! Series



Resources:

☑ *The Complete Guide to Personal and Home Safety*, Capt. Robert L. Snow, Da Capo Press; Revised edition (2002)

☑ *Secrets of a Superthief*, John MacLean, Berkeley Trade

☑ *Chris E. McGoey*, Crimedocor.com

☑ *Burglars on the Job*, Richard T. Wright and Scott Decker, Northeastern University Press

Visit
crimeprevention101.com
and receive a free
eBook "All-Time Top
Tips for Keeping
Yourself Safe!"

Tips & Tricks

Burglary is a mind game for thieves, so here are some tips that might psych out a burglar.

Burglar Alarms. "Professional" burglars know the models of security systems used by most of the large home security companies and can obtain the specs to disable them. Instead, post a GENERIC sign saying something like *"This House is Equipped with a Silent Motion Detector System."* That unknown system might just discourage a would-be burglar.

And, false, or non-operative surveillance cameras are not recommended. An amateur may be deterred, but the pros are very likely to recognize a bogus device.



Psych Out Signs. Amateurs are easier to fool, so make up a sign that'll give a burglar pause. Two examples: ***Attack Dogs Trained and Sold Here*** or ***Danger: Vicious Doberman Inside*** (or pit bull or German Shepherd, you pick).

Additional touch: Leave a large doggie dish by the front door with the name **Cujo** or **Killer** written on it and get a recording of a fierce-sounding barking dog set on a timer to go off periodically. Burglars hate loud dogs (and nosy neighbors).



☑ *No absolutes exist in crime scenarios and no advice can address every variable. Sometimes nothing can be done to prevent an undesirable outcome.*