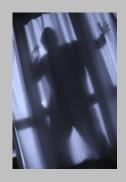
## **Psych Out a Burglar!**

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, Crimedoctor.com

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



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## **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.