



Window and Door Security

The most important aspect of home security is making sure you always lock it up! Don't be an easy target for burglars, by leaving a door or window open or unlocked. It doesn't matter how good your window or door hardware is, if it's not being used. Even when the home is occupied, unsecured windows and doors will make it easier for criminals to enter your home. Some hardware suggestions are offered in our home security videos: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/1659/Protect-Your-Home>

Realistically, there are going to be times your windows, and even doors are open, such as for ventilation or convenience. If you choose to leave them open, even for just a few minutes, remember that you are putting your home at high risk!

To improve security when windows are open, here are some suggestions:

- If your windows are not outfitted with locks, consider installing a lock. Another great option is to place a dowel in the track to prevent opening. You could also consider installing steel mesh (in addition to thinner bug screens) or security bars over windows you expect to use for ventilation.
- Only open those windows you can best supervise and make it impossible for someone to enter through them without you being alerted. This can be achieved either by means of electronic alarms or noise making devices, anything from wind chimes to stacks of bottles or tin cans. Barking dogs can also be a very effective deterrent!

Doors can be outfitted with a basic electronic sensor alarm, a bell, etc., which in many cases also work on windows.

For more security advice, contact your Eugene Police Department Community Engagement Specialist using information found on our website: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/944/Community-Engagement-Team>. You can determine who your "Specialist" is, by typing your address into the search tool. Once your address has been entered, it will give you a response with the Beat you live in. The Beat will indicate the person assigned to your location.