
Mastering Maintenance

Protect Your Home

(NAPSA)—Although many of today's homes have security systems, there are further steps a homeowner can take to help prevent intrusion.

For example, making sure a home appears occupied is an easy way to divert uninvited guests. Invitations to intrusion include notes on the door, unshoveled snow or an unmowed lawn, accumulations of mail or newspapers, total interior darkness before a normal bedtime and an empty garage or carport with no vehicles present.



To discourage intruders, your home should look occupied.

According to the experts at HouseMaster, leaders in the home inspection industry, making the house appear lived in even when away by alternating timed lighting and radios and having neighbors pick up the newspaper or mail is a critical security measure. To discourage intruders, also keep doors and windows locked, especially at basement and first-floor levels or where the home is accessible from a tree, porch or other structure. Inside doors that lead to the basement or garage should also be kept locked.

To learn more, visit www.housemaster.com/homedefects.