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Light: the Enemy of Criminals by John Cherry

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Criminals do not want to be seen. They commit their crimes mostly at night and dress in black clothing to blend into the darkness. They will choose houses that do not have lights turned on instead of houses that look occupied. They will pick targets that provide concealed hiding places over targets that do not have elaborate landscaping and stairwells. Simply put: criminals do not want to be caught. This is why any home security system needs to include exterior lighting.

In fact, even if you donâ€™t get a full security system installed in your house, installing exterior lighting can provide a powerful deterrent to would-be burglars. Research indicates that just by leaving your porch light on, you can significantly reduce your risk of being a target. However, a simple porch light will probably not be enough to discourage the most determined of criminals, so you will want to install security lights at several different locations around your property.

Of course, you probably do not want these bright lights to be on continuously. Not only would that be a drain on your wallet in terms of electric expenses, but it can be annoying to your neighbors as well. To combat those issues, it is best to install motion activated security lights instead of lights that stay on all the time. The theory behind these lights is simple. They are only turned on when motion is detected, such as that of a person sneaking up to your home. When the bright lights come on, he will be exposed and will risk being seen by neighbors or passersby. In many cases, the would-be burglar will move on to a target that does not provide that kind of risk for him.

Exterior lighting offers other benefits to homeowners as well as being a deterrent to criminals. Have you ever walked up to your front door and couldnâ€™t see the lock to insert your key? It can be frustrating to not be able to open your door quickly and easily. With security lighting, this is no longer a problem. The lights will come on as soon as you enter your driveway and will remain on until you are safely inside. This also discourages surprise attacks from people hiding behind bushes or trees. They are less likely to attack you if they know they are in full view of your neighbors.

No home security system should be considered complete unless exterior lighting is installed. It is a simple, yet effective way to discourage criminals from targeting your home.

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John is a shrewd consumer who writes about personal finance, home technology and home security topics like: a wireless home security system and a home security Tampa FL.

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