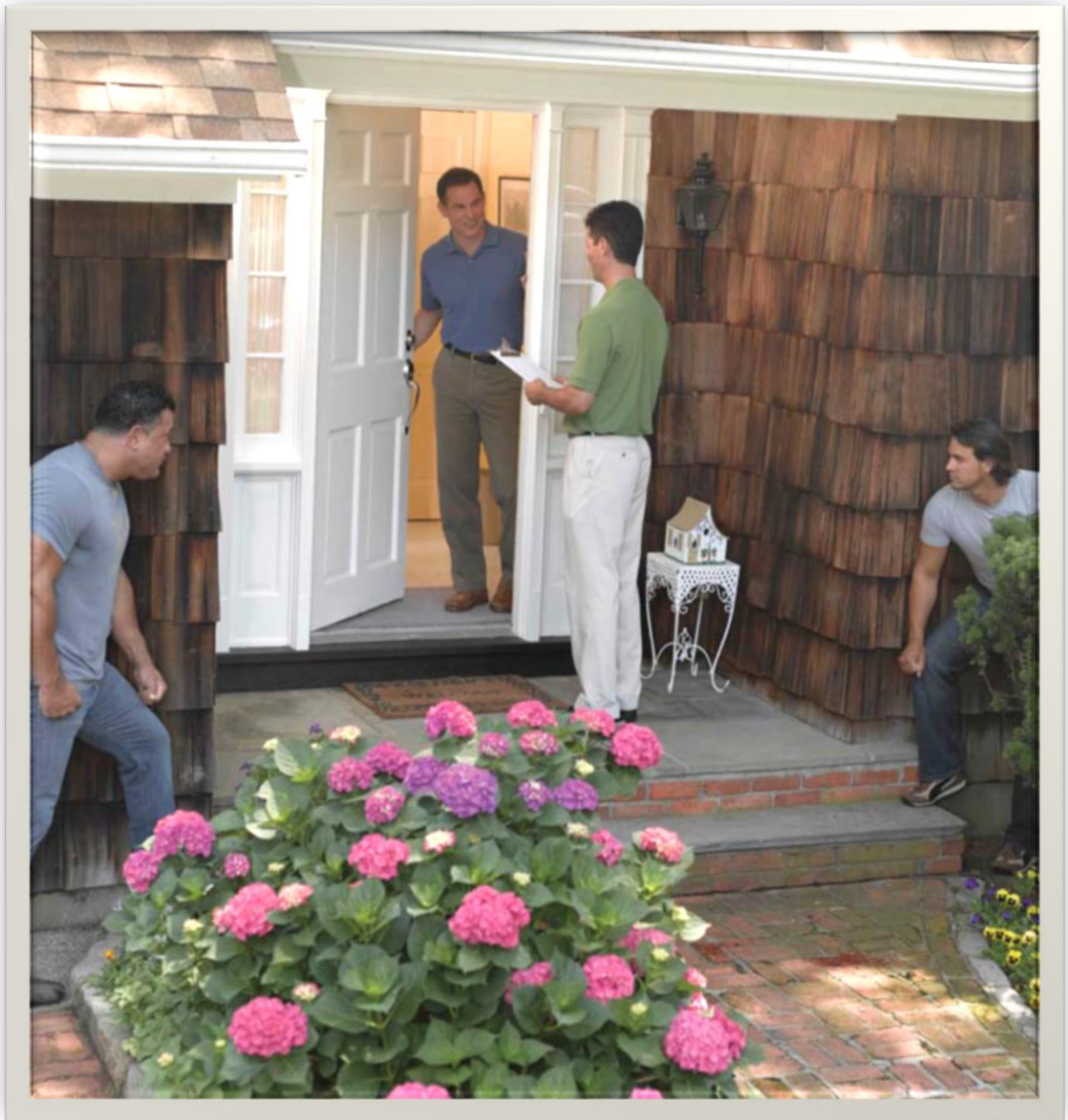


# Home Invasion Safety

Protecting Your Family



## ■ Point of Entry and Confrontation

A home invasion is when robbers force their way into an occupied home, apartment or hotel room to commit a robbery or other crime. The entry point of attack is often through the front door, garage or unlocked window. It is very important for the occupant not to automatically open the front door before asking who is there. Home invaders often knock on the door or ring the bell with the hope that the resident will simply open the door, without question. In most cases, people do just that.



They may pretend to be delivering a package...

If the resident fails to open the door automatically upon the home invaders knock or ringing of the bell, the home invaders already have a scam or impersonation in place in order to get you to open the door; they will use deception to gain entry. They may pretend to be delivering a package, flowers or lie about an accident like hitting your parked car. Once your front door is opened for them, the home invaders will use an exorbitant amount of force and threats to gain control and produce fear in the victims. Once the occupants are under control, the robbers begin to expedite their prearranged plan where specific tasks have already been divided among themselves. Generally, one or more of the home invaders controls the victims while the other offenders are systematically ransacking the residence.



...home invaders will use an **exorbitant** amount of force and threats to **gain control** and produce fear in the **victims**.





## ■ Home Invasion Robbers vs. Traditional Burglars

Home invasion robbers are more dangerous than other burglars because they want a confrontation, use violence, and do not feel they are pressed for time to get out of your home immediately.

In contrast, traditional burglars operate when a resident is not home because they want to avoid a confrontation and usually will flee when approached. Often times, alarm signs and decals, bars on windows, strong locks and doors, big dogs and alert neighbors can sometimes deter a traditional burglar. Most traditional burglars resort to violence if they are cornered and will use force as an escape. Most incidents of burglary do not result in violence, even when the burglar is discovered. This is not the case with home invasion robbers.



...traditional burglars operate mostly during the day...

## ■ Why Home Invasions?

The act of committing a home invasion is escalating because the traditional targets of convenience stores and fast food restaurants are harder to attack with affordable video surveillance systems, silent alarms and other anti-crime deterrent devices. Also, convenience stores intentionally have reduced the available cash in their registers. As a result, robbing a residence while the residents are home is more lucrative. Unlike robbing a convenience store, home invaders will most likely have privacy once inside your home and won't have to deal with the police suddenly driving up or customers walking in. These offenders can rely on an ample period of time to escape from the crime scene.

...robbing a **residence** while the **residents** are home is **more** lucrative



## ■ Some Prevention Steps

The same tactics used to prevent burglaries will go a long way to preventing a home invasion robbery. If you can delay a home invader at the point of entry, then you have a chance of deterring them or have time to call the police.



- Do not open the door without question at the sound of a knock.
- Use the door peephole BEFORE opening the door. If you do not have a peephole, have one installed.
- If you are not expecting a package, delivery or service call do not answer the door. Insist that the deliverer provide you with verbal verification of his employment and call the company to confirm that the deliverer's impromptu visit is legitimate. Your front door should remain closed and locked!
- Never rely on a chain-latch as a barrier to partially open the door; a home invader will kick in the door.
- A solid core door, strong locks with reinforced strike plates, and reinforced window devices will help to stop most forced entries.
- Keep doors, garage doors and windows locked at all times, even when you are home.
- Keep porches and all entrances well lit, i.e., driveways, garages and alleys. Check bulbs regularly.

Never rely on a chain-latch as a **barrier** to partially open the **door...**





- Arm your security system (if you have one) even when you are home. This is a common mistake homeowners make and home invasion robbers know it.
- Add panic buttons to your security system and place them around your home so you can alert the proper authorities from any location in your home.
- Call the police if you see a stranger acting suspiciously.
- Alert your neighbors to suspicious solicitors.
- Hold a family meeting to discuss home security plans. The best defense against home invasion is education and planning.
- Consider building or designating a safe room inside your home to allow your family to retreat or escape potential violence while giving them valuable time to call the police.



**Hold a family meeting to discuss home security plans.**



It is very hard to statistically track home invasions because most police agencies will record the crime as a residential burglary or a robbery. Without the ability to track the specific crime of home invasion, little can be done to alert the public as to the frequency of occurrence in their community or devise a law enforcement plan of action to control it. The best defence against home invasion is education and planning.



## Developed with information from:

### **Crime Doctor**

[www.crimedoctor.com/homeinvasion](http://www.crimedoctor.com/homeinvasion)

### **Home Invasion Prevention**

[www.homeinvasion.ca](http://www.homeinvasion.ca)

### **Fort Lauderdale Police Department**

<http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/police/hurley.html>

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