

IMPROVE YOUR HOME

# HOME SWEET HOME

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Advertising feature of the Markham Economist & Sun/Stouffville Tribune

## Securing your home against a break-in

If you are a home owner, you have probably thought about protecting your home against a possible break-in. While some home owners are content with leaving a light on while they are away as a means of foiling a potential intruder, others invest in sophisticated security alarm systems.

Whatever type of home security you choose, there are still a number of steps you can take to fortify your home against a break-in. Here are some handy tips that will

provide added protection for you and your loved ones.

Be sure to lock all doors and windows. This may seem obvious, but these are the most common entry points into a home. Home security experts advise using high quality deadbolts on the exterior doors and reinforced door frames. For sliding glass doors, use a bar to prevent them from being opened.

Install security lights around the perimeter of your home. Exterior lights act as deterrents, and can be installed with motion detectors.

Install a wide-angle peephole in exterior doors at eye level, or a closed-circuit camera system to identify visitors before opening the door.

Trim bushes and trees around windows and doors and other entry points where burglars are likely to lurk.

If you plan to be away for an extended period of time, use timers on interior appliances such as TVs and radios. This will give the appearance that someone is home and that your home is occupied.

Criminals tend to like working in the dark and so leave outside lights on. Also, make sure that your outside lights are out of reach and can't be easily broken or removed.

Dogs are an effective deterrent against intruders. If you don't own a dog, then consider hanging BEWARE OF DOG sign on the lawn, or leave a dog dish on the porch.

Become familiar with the Neighbourhood Watch program. This is a program of mutual assistance among neighbours who look out for one another's property. It has been known to drastically reduce the incidence of crime in many neighbourhoods across Canada.

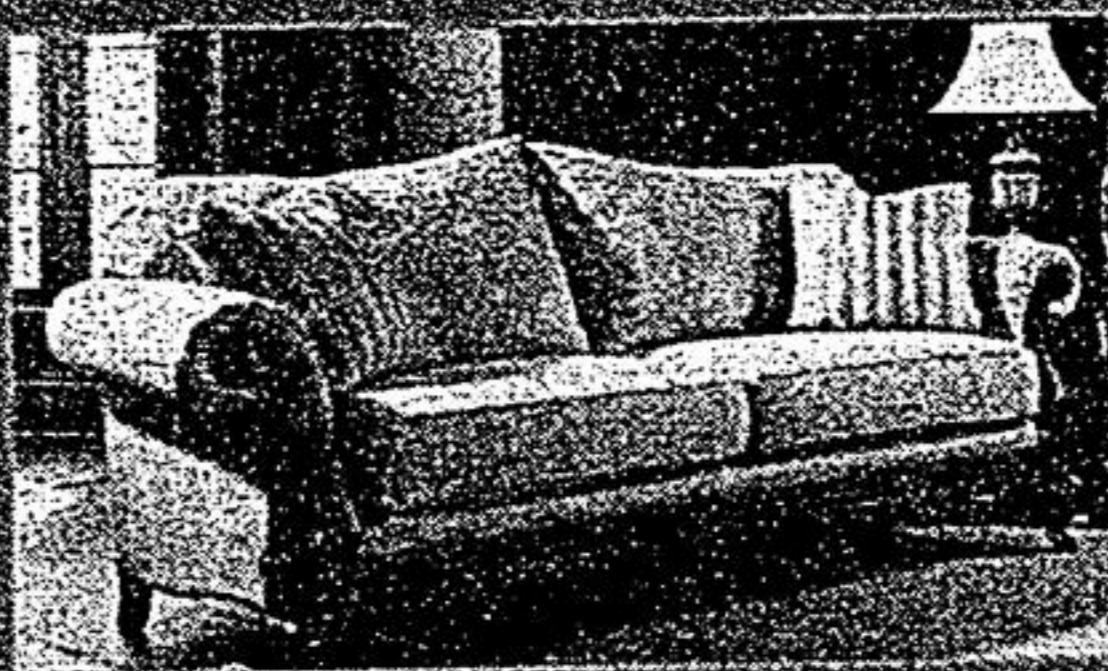
Consider installing an alarm system. This could include an alarm system that secures perimeter access points such as doors and windows, and a motion detector which monitors movements inside a home. Alarm systems can be designed according to your lifestyle and budget.

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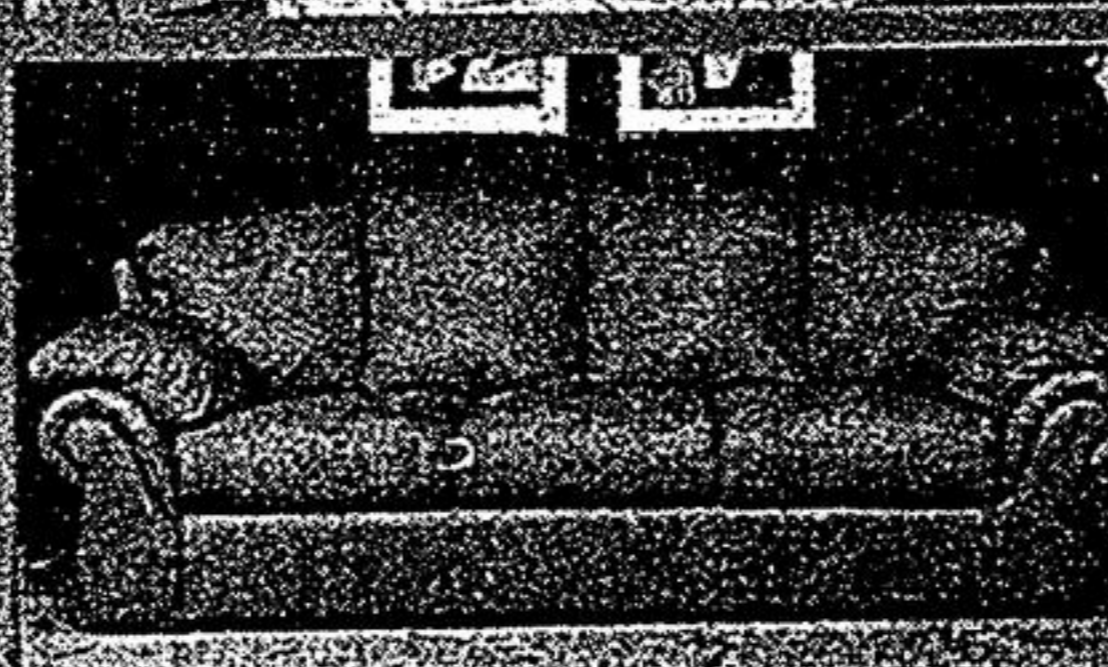
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