DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY AND WARRANTY
This publication describes the author’s opinions regarding the subject matter herein. The author and publisher are not rendering advice or services pertaining to specific individuals or situations. For specific advice, or if expert assistance is required, the services of a qualified professional should be obtained.

The author and publisher assume no responsibility whatsoever for the use of the information in this publication or for decisions made or actions taken based, in whole or in part, on the information in this publication. The author and publisher make no warranties, express or implied, regarding the information. Without limiting the foregoing, the author and publisher specifically disclaim and will not be responsible for any liability, loss, or risk incurred directly, indirectly or incidentally as a consequence of the use or misuse of any advice or information presented herein. Use this publication and information with good judgment and do the best you can in your particular situation.

You agree to indemnify and hold the author and publisher, and their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors and suppliers, harmless from any claim or demand, including reasonable attorneys’ fees, related to your use or misuse of this publication or the information contained therein. You further agree that you will cooperate fully in the defense of any such claims.

Notice: As the purchaser of this electronic document you are permitted to store it and print it for your own personal use only.

Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and publisher. It is illegal to make a copy of all or part of this publication for someone else, even if you do not charge for the copy. If you have purchased this book from anywhere other than FamilySurvivalSystem.com, including eBay, please report it to admin@familysurvivalsystem.com immediately.

COPYRIGHT
Those who have received or purchased the guide are neither authorized nor permitted to transmit copies of this guide to anyone without written permission. Giving away copies to people who haven’t paid for them is illegal under international copyright laws and will submit you to possible legal action. Therefore, the utilization of this file is limited to personal use only.

TERMS AND DISCLAIMER
By using, viewing, and interacting with this guide or the FamilySurvivalSystem.com website, you agree to all terms of engagement, thus assuming complete responsibility for your own actions.

The authors and publishers will not be held liable or claim accountability for any loss or injuries. Use, view, and interact with these resources at your own risk.

All products from FamilySurvivalSystem.com and its related companies are strictly for informational purposes only.

While all attempts have been made to verify the accuracy of information provided on our website and within the publications, neither the authors nor the publishers are responsible for assuming liability for possible inaccuracies.

The authors and publishers disclaim any responsibility for the inaccuracy of the content, including but not limited to errors or omissions. Loss of property, injury to self or others, and even death could occur as a direct or indirect consequence of the use and application of any content found herein.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **The Crux of the Problem** .................................................. 5
- **Hardening Your Home** .................................................. 7
- **The Front Door, and Other Entry Doors** .................... 9
- **Patio Doors** .................................................................. 12
- **Glass—An Intruder’s Dream** ........................................ 13
- **A Hidden Access Area No One Thinks About** .............. 14
- **Skylights—Death From Above** .................................. 15
- **The Garage Door** ......................................................... 16
- **What Happens If There Is a Fire?** .......................... 17
- **The Theme of What We Are Trying to Present** .......... 17
We are fortunate to live in America, where our cities are relatively safe. Even our worst neighborhoods in our most violent cities don’t compare to some other locales across the globe, where mere existence takes effort. Still, we are seeing a remarkable increase in violent crime perpetrated on suburban homes. Once the domain of simple burglaries, the average American home is far more prone to home invasion than it was in the past. Additionally, SWAT team raids are becoming more common; they are alarmingly perpetrated on the wrong home with increasing frequency.
THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM

We don’t live in fortified castles, nor is it in vogue to have overt security measures on our homes. Sure, the homes of the wealthy can have a wall and a gate, but what do you think of a neighborhood when you drive by and each home has bars on the windows and steel entry gates on the front door? Easy—you think bad neighborhood, and that’s not the image we want to send as preppers. In bad neighborhoods, most everyone has the same security measures. In normal, suburban neighborhoods, the house with the gate and barred windows stands out like a sore thumb. As preppers, blending in is part of the deal. Attracting undue attention to your home is not where we want to be, fundamentally. The crux is simple—the home must be fortified to withstand common attacks, but it must not seem visibly fortified.

At this point, many people ask about alarm systems. America has overwhelmingly turned to alarm systems in a quest for home protection. The basic premise is that upon making entry, an alarm will sound (could be a silent one), and a dispatch center will receive the signal. They in turn will notify the police and thus a patrol car will be sent out. Some alarm systems take this a step further by monitoring each window and door, and thus telling the home owner and transmitting to the alarm company where the break is occurring. Some alarm calls are responded to by the security company’s own personnel, which sometimes provide a quicker response within places like gated communities. Alarm systems, however, are not a substitute for home hardening. Here are some reasons why:

- An alarm system does nothing to actually harden the home. The only thing that will potentially deter a hostile person is an 8” placard announcing that the home is protected by an alarm system—if he or she sees it.
Response to an alarm call is considered a nuisance call for most police departments, since hundreds of thousands of false calls happen every year. Sure, they must come out, but they aren’t usually in a great hurry.

If an attacker wants to get in the home, the alarm system won’t stop them, and in most parts of the country, an attacker would have over five minutes to loot the home or harm you.

During a natural disaster, your home noisemaker (aka alarm) will most likely be ignored.

As preppers, the last point is the hardest pill to swallow. During a disaster, with first responder resources stretched to the max, a response to an alarm call will basically be the last priority.
HARDENING YOUR HOME

It has been said that many medieval castles more or less defended themselves. The walls alone, due to sheer mass, were enough to keep most skirmishers outside the gates. Skirmishers were one thing, but a determined force of attackers was quite another. In order to defend the castle against a determined aggressor, manpower was needed; the walls were not enough. So too, your home needs you to protect it during a time of disaster. You need to be able to maintain the integrity of the home—namely the doors and windows—so that you can keep the attackers out—but in your sights. Once the home’s integrity is breached, the battle happens inside, and that is no place to fight at all. Keep people out, and stand a chance. Let people in, and potentially die within your own home. Here are some basic precepts of home hardening:

✓ No home is impregnable against a determined attacker, but you can slow the entry enough and make the attacker pay dearly enough that he may cease the attack.

✓ The number one target of break-ins and home invasions (85%) is the front door. Most SWAT teams will conduct operations against the front door as well. Consider that most American door locks (even deadbolts) will survive, on average, two swift kicks, or one hit with a purpose built SWAT style battering ram (manned by one person).

✓ The weakest exterior door in the home becomes the weakest link in the chain. A super fortified front door can sometimes be located ten feet from an unlocked garage or side door. Make sure you cover all doors!
The bottom line is this—both home invaders and SWAT teams alike use a single element that allows them to succeed—*surprise*. A rapid hit that disables your door and lets an attacker in is a surprise. A window hit that shatters a window backed up by a ladder whereby attackers can pour in is a surprise. *A hit on your front door that does not result in the door opening, however, is a warning*—to you. It’s a warning to you to prepare yourself, to get armed. Most importantly, such a failed non entry is liable to stop an attack in its tracks.

What you need to do to harden your home is to pluck all the low hanging security fruit from your home. You need to harden it enough to deter an invader, make it so his element of surprise is defeated, giving you time to prepare a counterattack. We’ll show you how.
THE FRONT DOOR, AND OTHER ENTRY DOORS

Front doors have been universally accepted in American culture as the place of entry used by visitors, strangers, salesmen, and occasionally, the owners of the home. You must first realize that the only reason this door is used as such is purely cultural. If you don’t believe us, try visiting your friend, and knock on the back door. You will most likely find a rear entry gate wide open, and the back door may even be unlocked—*all signals that it is okay to enter that way*. Yet, your entry at the back door might result in the homeowner calling the police, in the worst case—even though the path was easy to get to. In a sense, the front door is a purely symbolic gateway, yet the door that most often has the highest level of protection—or what passes for protection. Usually, your front door will have the following protective devices:

**A deadbolt:** This is where all the money goes; a lock with a 1 ½” hardened metal rod that protrudes from the door either into the door frame or the dead side of a double door. The problem with a deadbolt is that even the slightest warpage of the door frame by a hit can totally defeat it. Additionally, it normally slides into a thin pocket; there simply isn’t much meat here.

**A chain:** This is sometimes used to allow the owner to open the door a crack to speak with someone. The theory here is that the chain will prevent someone from bumping the door open. Often, it’s mounted to both sides of the door with short screws and the chain is brass rather than hardened steel.
None of the methods above are adequate for any of your exterior doors. Here are some solutions that are guaranteed to defeat a first hit entry while being totally invisible from the outside:

**Door Barricade:** In use since the medieval times and even before, a simple door barricade can be purchased or even made. It’s important that the brackets that hold the crossbeam be lag bolted into the door studs for maximum strength. Once the crossbeam is bolted into place, there’s no amount of pounding on the door that will cause it to budge. An attack on the deadbolt will fail, as will an attack on the hinges—a barricade simply takes the door’s weakest parts out of play. In case the wife is cringing, they don’t all have to be ugly—there is no reason why the brackets can’t be made of chromed steel and the barricade itself from varnished hardwood.

**Door Stop:** If the door barricade seems a bit much (it’s not, trust us), but you live in an apartment, or a temporary dwelling of some sort, consider a door stop made by the Nightlock company. Available most anywhere on the internet for $60 or less, and with an installation time in minutes, the Nightlock is a good alternative to a door barricade. While it does allow the top part of the door to flex a bit, it will most certainly deter a one hit bump, especially if you use good hardware to mount it to the floor.
Barrel Bolts: Barrel bolts don’t have to be ugly—and every exterior door (yes, even the one that leads to the garage) should have one. The key here is that the bolt needs to engage directly into the concrete slab or other structural material. It functions very much like the door stop but is excellent for doors where you don’t want the look of a door stop. Again, they totally take the air out of a first hit bump and leave the invader wondering just what is holding that door shut—even though he may have the deadbolt in his hand!
PATIO DOORS

The bane of home security is the humble sliding patio door, which is ubiquitous throughout America. Easily defeated by most crooks since it has a simple hook for locking, this door is easy to jimmy, and with older models, it can be lifted clear off its frame by anyone who has had three minutes of training doing it.

Don’t even bother with locks on these guys—go straight to a professional grade patio door stop. Note we did not say put a broom handle in the track! What you want is for the stop to be engaged midway up the door, about the same level as the lock itself. This is because on a track with old or worn track wheels, an expert can tilt the door enough, even with a broom handle in place, to cause the door to come off its track or insert a jimmy tool in the gap and pry the door off. Even proper security bars like the one we are suggesting is nothing new, and since patio doors are inherently unsecure virtually no matter what is done to them, consider adding a vertical barrel bolt to the vertical door frame as well to keep the door locked in place.
GLASS—AN INTRUDER’S DREAM

American homes are covered in glass—there’s not much that can be done about it. Formerly reserved for windows, now most American doors have window panes; they are obviously present in sliding patio doors as well as some garage doors. Glass is simply a fact of life, and to be honest, one does not necessarily want to live in a windowless hut. Glass has a tendency to defeat other hardening measures as well. For example, you might have a French door that you’ve installed vertical barrel bolts on. There might even be a cross bar behind the door—but guess what—all a crook needs to do is smash out one little pane of glass, and he can then lift the cross bar off and pull up the barrel bolts. Pretty disappointing—but we have a remedy.

Ballistic window film is the answer here, and it should be installed on your sensitive windows—all your windows if you can afford it. Marketed by a variety of companies, but most prominently adhesives giant 3M, ballistic window film is normally comprised of multiple thin layers of film that are bonded together, then bonded to the window frame of your home. When the windows are struck by an object, the glass still shatters—but it all hangs in one piece! The film will not allow the glass to be penetrated, and it will still be in the way as a barrier. It is a remarkably durable and tenacious product that cannot be easily defeated.

3M markets their film under the Ultra Prestige (28 layers of microfilm) and Ultra series (42 layers of microfilm), and while it is relatively expensive and really ought to be installed by a professional, it is worth every penny if you have lots of windows, or windows that are in a bad strategic area, like sidelights on the front door. 3M’s marketing literature claims that “windows can be transformed from your weakest link to a source of strength”, and they are entirely right on that note. Keep in mind the word “ballistic” does not imply that the film is bulletproof—it is resistant to blunt impacts like bats, bricks, pipes, crowbars, and things of that nature.
A HIDDEN ACCESS AREA NO ONE THINKS ABOUT

So you’ve barricaded all exterior doors, and put 3M window film on your windows for a complete home solution. You feel pretty safe inside your home, but you’re missing one huge hole—your attic vent. Most American homes are designed on the principle of having a vented attic, which means that the dwelling itself is sealed, but the attic is open to vent to the outside. Basically, all one needs to do is put a ladder up to the attic vent, unscrew the panel, climb inside, and enter through your attic access. No locks, no broken windows—nothing—and you might not even know the intruder had even been inside. Most attic vents are fully capable of fitting a grown man, and most homes have at least one, and sometimes more. Again, our culture has taught us “that’s not a door” so most people overlook it as a method of ingress into the home—except crooks. Ask yourself what’s protecting the attic access to your home from the inside? Is it a piece of sheetrock painted to match the ceiling just sitting in place by gravity? Is it a lockable door? Could a crook literally walk into your home with nothing but a ladder and a Philips screwdriver, defeating every security measure you have?

The easiest way to kill this one is to have a steel grate or bars made for this vent, and to bolt the grate over the attic vent. Make sure to use through bolts so that the grate cannot be easily removed. Don’t worry too much about the look—most attic vents don’t face the street and the grate can be painted to match the home.
SKYLIGHTS—DEATH FROM ABOVE

Okay, so ‘death from above’ is a bit much, but consider that skylights are usually thin plexiglass and more than large enough to fit an intruder. Sure, they may have primitive locks, but they can easily be smashed, drilled, or cut for entry. Most of them are yellowed from the sun, and sunlight breaks down the polycarbonate in the skylight lens, making it brittle and easily fractured. Heck, lots of them crack on their own without any human intervention. The easiest solution here is either a set of bars on the inside, preventing ingress, or the aforementioned 3M film.
THE GARAGE DOOR

Most roll up garage doors have a pull string knob that hangs from a cam on the track, the purpose of which is to disengage the drive motor from the track. With the drive motor engaged, the door is pretty securely locked and it is hard to crank the door up, but not impossible with a jack. Criminals have become extremely specialized at squeezing a coat hanger through the joints of the garage door and grabbing this knob, hooking it and pulling it downwards, which disengages the drive motor. This is especially made easy when the garage door has glass panels to see within. They can then roll the door up with ease, and by hand. Within the garage, they can then shut the door, and proceed to work on the door to the home with relative privacy. Do yourself a favor and get rid of this pull string and knob altogether. If you really want security, get bicycle wheel lock with the flexible arm, and padlock one of the garage door wheel axles to the track. Most tracks are perforated with holes every few inches, and the wheel axles are easy to grab. This will keep the door in securely locked in the down position.
WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A FIRE?

For this reason, we never recommend bars on windows. Even with the 3M window film, the windows work the same as they did before the film. The doors in your house will open with just a few more minor steps, which you will quickly master after opening and closing your new locks a few times. So what about if you somehow pass out and the fire department can’t get in? Rest assured, the fire department can always get in. Between halligan tools, chainsaws, and hydraulic jaws, there is nothing that can’t be accessed by a team of motivated firemen. Your fortifications are there to deter and delay entry, not prevent it outright. First responders will be delayed in getting in to your home, but they will enter. Remember, all you want is a delay so you can arm up if need be!

THE THEME OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO PRESENT

You need to look at your home just like a criminal, thug, intruder, SWAT team member, or any undesirable will look at it. There is an easy way to do this—be a criminal, on your own home of course. Make a fun game of it, and do it in the daytime. Exit your home and lock the door (but keep the keys handy!). Grab your tools and a ladder, and go around your home, trying to break into it. We guarantee you that without much skill, you’ll find at least one easy entry point, and on some old houses, maybe more. And consider you’re just using low impact methods (hopefully), rather than outright smashing or destroying. Take what you learn, and fortify, fortify, fortify. Your home is your castle—start treating it like one!