

Alarms

Residential burglar alarms are available from electrical and hardware dealers, or entire systems may be leased or purchased from alarm companies. The City of Indio requires a special alarm permit upon activation of the alarm system. The permit can be purchased from the City of Indio Finance Department at 100 Civic Center Mall (760) 391-4040. The permit can be down loaded at <http://www.indio.org/index.aspx?page=382>. There is no charge for the permit for residents age 65 and over.

Most residential alarms emit a loud noise from a bell, siren, or tone generator. An audible alarm on doors and windows can be an effective deterrent to the armature burglar. If you install an audible alarm, make sure your family and neighbors are knowledgeable about its function and that they know to call your local law enforcement agency when they hear the alarm. The City of Indio allows one false alarm per permit a year. All other false alarms incurs a \$93.00 False Alarm Assessment fee and an Administrative Citation.

There are many types of alarms on the market. A local company specializing in burglar alarm systems will save you money in service calls. Get several estimates and then decide which alarm is best for your needs.

Any alarm system should include: a fail-safe battery backup; fire sensing capability (ionization sensors are best); readout ability to check the working of the system; and a horn sounding installed in the attic through the vent.

DO NOT install a dialer alarm system which calls the police or sheriff's department. During a major disaster, this type of alarm will completely block incoming phone lines at the police or sheriff's department.

DO NOT DEPEND ONLY UPON AN ALARM TO PROTECT YOU...BE SURE TO USE THE PROPER LOCKING DEVICES.

All Emergencies (Police, Fire or Ambulance)
911

Animal Services

(760) 343-3644

Business Licenses

(760) 391- 4197

City Hall

(760) 391- 4000

Code Enforcement

(760) 391- 4123

Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

(760) 391-4037

Fire Department (Business)

(760) 347- 0756

Indio Golf Course

(760) 391- 4049

Indio Police Dept Main Line (24-hours)

(760) 391- 4057

Indio Police Department Non-Emergency

(760) 391- 4051

Indio Water Authority (Business)

(760) 391- 4038

Graffiti Removal Hot Line

(760) 391- 4143

Neighborhood Watch

(760) 391-4037

Office of the Chief of Police

(760) 391- 4035

Senior Center

(760) 341- 4170

Special Events (Garage Sale and Event Permits)

(760) 391- 4175

Teen Center

(760) 541-4400

Coachella Valley Crime Stoppers (Anonymous Tips)

(760) 341-STOP

Special thanks to past Attorney General
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**INDIO
POLICE**
Est. 1980

Home Security

**Tips,
Locks
& Alarms**



“Our Community

Indio Police Department

46-800 Jackson St.
Indio, CA 92201
Phone: 760-391-4057
Fax: 760-391-4036
www.indiopd.org

Home Security Tips

- Remember - An unlocked lock is not a lock. Always lock your doors and windows even when leaving for just a minute.
- House number should be visible from the street. In rural areas a last name or number should be displayed on the mailbox. This is important law enforcement, fire or medical personnel responding to a call.
- Never put a first name on a mailbox. Use initials and last name only.
- Doors, windows and yards should be well lighted at night.
- Don't leave notes indicating you aren't home or when you will return.
- Never have a name or license tag attached to your house keys. If keys are lost or stolen you will have an unwelcome visitor very quickly.
- Never enter your house if you see evidence of a burglary.

If you meet a burglar, let him go! Better to lose money or property than your life!

Hinged doors

All exterior doors should be of solid-core construction and at least 1 3/4 inches thick. The door frame should also be of solid construction.

Outside hinges

Exterior doors with hinges on the outside provide a burglar with easy access to your home. This situation can be corrected in the following ways:

1. Have the hinges remounted on the inside of the frame so that the door swings inward.
2. Install a set of hinges with non-removable hinge pins.
3. Install a locking pin in the existing hinge plate. Here is how:
 - Remove the center screws from the plates of each hinge.
 - Insert a "headless" screw, bolt or

nail into the door jamb through the hole in the hinge plate. Leave 1/2 inch of the screw, bolt or nail protruding.

- Drill a 3/4 inch hole through the opening in the opposite hinge plate on the door.

Once this is done, as the door closes, the pin in the jamb will penetrate the hole in the door and the door will be held in position even if the hinge pins are removed.

Locks for hinge doors

- Secure all exterior doors with deadbolt locks, having a one inch throw or vertical drop.
- If there are no windows in or near the door, a single cylinder deadbolt is recommended.
- If your door has glass panes or if there are windows within forty inches of the lock, a double cylinder deadbolt lock is recommended, so that a key is required from either side of the door.

Caution: Many communities prohibit the use of a double cylinder deadbolt lock because it may be hazardous if the door it secures is to be used as a fire emergency exit. Consult your local fire department. If used in your home, a key should be left in the inside cylinder whenever the home is occupied.

- Whenever installing a deadbolt, attach the strike plate to the door frame with four or six three inch wood screws. The screws should penetrate through to a structural frame.
- Deadbolt locks (single and double cylinder) should meet the following criteria.
 1. The bolt must extend a minimum of one inch and contain a hardened steel insert.
 2. The deadbolt should contain a cylinder guard to prohibit twisting of the lock with a wrench or pliers. It must be solid metal.
 3. The keyway should contain a five-pin tumbler system to increase the difficulty to pick the lock.
 4. The connecting screws that hold the lock together must be on the inside and

made of case-hardened steel. Exposed screw heads should not be on the outside.

5. The connecting screws must be at least 1/4 inch in diameter and go into solid metal stock, not screw posts.

Sliding glass doors and windows

To prevent sliding glass doors or windows from being lifted from the track, it is recommended that 1 1/4 inch large head sheet metal screws be inserted into the top of the door frame at both ends and in the middle. These screws should be adjusted so that the door/window barely clears them when it is operated.

Supplemental locks or pins can be installed at the top or bottom and/or wooden dowels can be placed in the inside bottom track to prevent the door or window from opening.

Double-hung sash type windows

To secure these windows, drill a hole that angles slightly downward through a top corner of the bottom window into the bottom corner of the top window on both sides. The place an eye-bolt or nail into the hole to prevent the window from being opened. Auxiliary latches may also be purchased.

The most effective protection for double-hung windows is a key-locking security sash lock with two inch wood screws.

Garage doors

The interior door from the garage to the house should be considered an entry door. It should be solid-core door with a good quality deadbolt lock and secure hinge pins.

Garage doors should be closed and locked with a good quality padlock. The following description is the minimum standard for an exterior padlock; hardened steel, with at least a 9/32 inch shackle (stainless steel shackles offer the ultimate in padlock security); double locking mechanism - heel and toe; five pin tumbler; and a key retaining feature. This prevents the key from being removed until the padlock is locked.