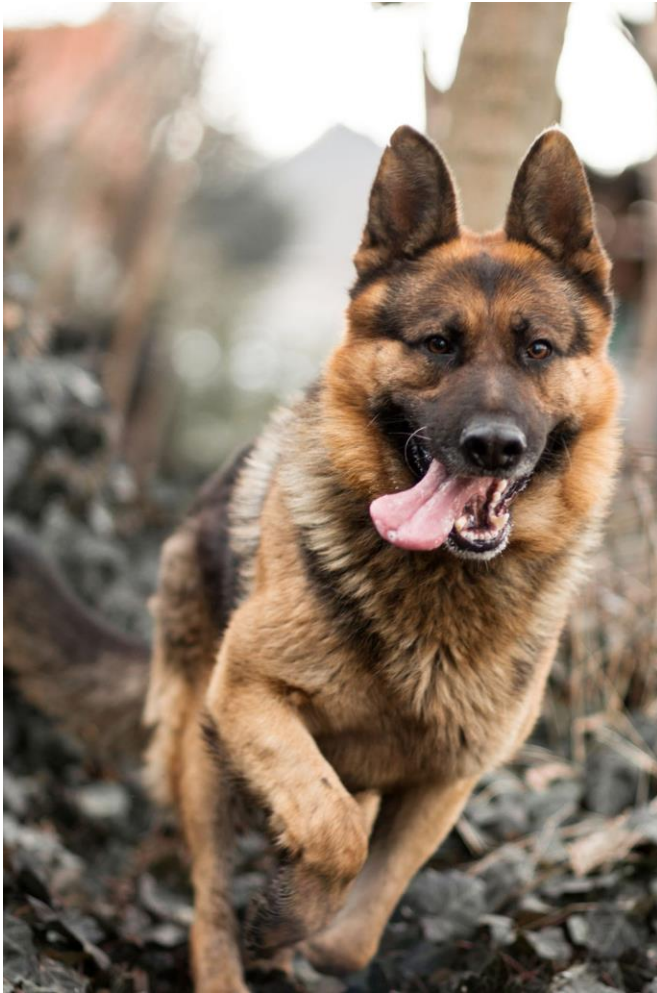


# Simple Ways to Increase Your Security at Home

*By Roy Bardowell, CDDC*

It goes without saying—you want to live in a secure home. Most opt for an expensive security system that requires a monthly monitoring charge, but the simplest #1 piece of security is still the household dog.



If you want to own a dog, please understand he/she must be inside at night and not outside where he cannot protect his owners.

Other simple things you can do is lock all windows. When I lived in New York we screwed all the windows shut. Even the

sawiest burglar who knew how to un-trip a lock had no way to remove the screw.



In my 50 years of garage door service, I have seen many ways to enter a house with very little effort. People who leave their garage door open are inviting theft. Only recently, a woman in Madison, WI, had her purse stolen when her garage door wouldn't close. After returning home one night and pulling into the garage, she couldn't close the garage door behind her. When she got out to investigate the reason, a fast burglar grabbed her purse and ran off. I assume the guy was blocking the photo-sensors, so the door wouldn't close. In this case, safety compromised security.

Even-so the garage door is rarely the uninvited way into a home. Amazon has teamed up with some garage door motor manufacturers to open the garage door when there is a delivery. With all the porch pirating going on this was a fantastic security addition to a home.

Still, there are many more ways to secure your home with less complexity. See my top eight points below.

1. Get a good watch dog: Dogs have a sense of hearing and smell hundreds of times that of humans and will hear or smell an unknown person or intruder in only minutes. A barking dog will send most running from your property every-time.



2. Don't leave the remotes on the sun visor in the car where anyone can see it. It's like leaving keys outside where everyone can see them. In hotter climates people tend to leave the window of the car open a little to help vent out heat buildup. Anyone can take a stick and slide it through the opening and push the button on the remote. Bingo- your door opens and you have welcomed a burglar. I always recommend spending a little more and purchasing the mini keychain remotes. When you remove the cars

ignition keys, the car keys and door remote both go with you into the house.



3. Off the topic of garage doors for a moment-don't leave the keys to your front door under the welcome mat, plant pot or over the door jamb. Too many know of this trick and will exploit it.



4. Always be sure your garage is well lit inside and outside. A well-lit property is the greatest deterrent to crime. When pulling in at night, you want to see if anyone is lurking around.



5. If your door doesn't close at night, lock the car doors, but don't leave your car

until another family member is there to assist you.



6. If you have an older key switch, that can open your door with a simple turn of a key, get rid of that today. It is very easy to pull the key switch from the wooden jamb and short the two wires which will open your door. The keyless entry is a more secure option providing you keep the PIN number private.



7. If you have a keyless entry that requires a pin number to activate your garage door always share the pin with only those you can trust. You can simply change the pin number anytime if you feel too many know it.
8. Sleep Easy!

*Roy Bardowell, CDDC, served as Operations Manager at Guardian Access & Door Hardware until 2014. He has been in the door and operator industry since 1973 and is known as one of the industry's most experienced operator technicians and trainers. Roy received the IDEA Commitment to Excellence award in 2008 and IDA's Jerry R. Reynolds Volunteer Service Award in 2017. Contact him at [roythedoorman@gmail.com](mailto:roythedoorman@gmail.com)*