

Recently, Chris McGoeys*, who owns and operates the "Crime Doctor Website" conducted a survey of convicted burglars from the states of North Carolina, Oregon, California and Kentucky. He published his finding and with his permission, the New Smyrna Beach Police Department is furnishing a segment of his article to the public by way of this brochure.

Here's what they had to say:

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway, and I might

leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser

drawers, the bedside table and the medicine cabinet.

11. Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)
14. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
15. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
16. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature. A nosey neighbor will go look to see what made the noise.

17. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

18. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

19. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

20. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

21. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in....

The information obtained from these criminals confirms Law Enforcements beliefs:

- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Leave nothing of value out in the open.
- Install and arm your burglary alarm.
- Have a friend or neighbors pick up your mail and newspaper while you are away.
- Never allow strangers into your home, for any reason.
- Know your contractors and their employee's.
- JOIN a Crime Watch/Neighborhood Watch.

* [Chris McGoe](#)y is the President of Aegis Books, Inc., and does business as **McGoe Security Consulting** for the past twenty-five years. He has hosted the Crime Doctor Website online since 1996 as a community service by providing practical advice about security, crime, loss prevention, and avoiding liability. His office is located near Los Angeles, California.



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21 Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You

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