

# HOME INSPECTIONS, INC.

## Do You Know

After ACTOR/DIRECTOR Michael Douglas had been in five blockbuster films, his father, actor Kirk Douglas, wrote him a note.

It said, "Michael, I'm more proud of how you **handle** success than I am of your success."

It is a note Michael Douglas treasures.

*"The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook."*

- William James

*"When life seems stressed, borrow a small child and follow him or her around for a while. You'll notice things you haven't seen in years."*

## Despite Alarming Crime Rate, Americans Seem Unconcerned About Home Security

Call it a false sense of security, sixty six percent (66%) of Americans are not concerned about home security despite the fact that nearly two out of five have been burglarized or know someone who has been burglarized in the past two years.

"Burglary can strike anyone," says Dr. Wilbur L. Ryker, director of the National Crime Prevention Institute. "Homeowners must become more cognizant of their vulnerability and take home security more seriously."

This sense of security revealed in the survey may actually end up contributing to crime in the form of homeowner carelessness. In fact, forty percent (40%) of break-ins involve an unlocked door or window. Ironically, some estimates indicate that a third of Americans cite door and window locks as their primary source of home security.

While one group of Americans may not be using their existing security, many others have upgraded their security in the last year by changing locks or adding a deadbolt to entryways.

"Add-on" security products such as patio security bars and door security bars are inexpensive ways to further enhance home security and prevent thieves from entering their home through doors. Patio security bars help prevent intruders from forcing a patio door open and lifting it off its track. Door security bars, which are wedged between a door knob and the floor to stop forced entry, can be particularly effective in metropolitan areas where break-in rates are two to three times above the national average.

### How Much Do You Know?

Do you know enough about break-ins to prevent them? Take this quick quiz and find out.

**Question:** How many burglaries are committed annually in the United States?

- a) 1 million
- b) 2 million
- c) 3 million

*Two million burglaries are committed annually in the U.S. 37% occur during the day when entry by duplicate key is more likely.*



**Question:** What are the chances of a thief already having a key to your lock without copying your key?

- a) 1 in 1,000,000
- b) 1 in 1,000
- c) 1 in 100

**Answer:** None of the above.

Actually, the chances of a thief having a duplicate key, according to an industry expert, are as great as one in fifty (1 in 50). Many mass merchandisers and home improvement stores sell padlocks that have "common stock codes," for which a very limited number of unique keys are made. In other words, a thief could watch you buy a padlock, purchase several more from the same bin, and potentially wind up with a key identical with yours.

**Question:** What are the most common ways thieves try to break into padlocks?

- a) copy the key
- b) pick the lock
- c) cut the shackle
- d) Pull the shackle out of the padlock body
- e) pull the cylinder out of the padlock body

**Answer:** All of the above

Most common lock keys are so easy to copy, even an unskilled thief can copy your key just by writing down the code

stamped on most keys. It is worth your while to look for locks featuring security measures to prevent this. Padlocks with pick-proofing features like double locking action cylinders, hardened steel inserts to resist drilling, and lock shackles to resist bolt cutter attacks are also good investments.

Many thieves use automobile dent pullers to rip cylinders out of the padlock body. Look for padlocks that provide resistance as protection against pull attacks and padlocks that use a dual ball bearing locking design that is recommended by the National Crime Prevention Institute. This reduces the chances of shackle pull attacks.

**Question:** A thief's biggest enemy is:

- a) an alarm system
- b) a dog
- c) time

**Answer:** c

A thief's biggest enemy is time. Their chances of getting caught rise substantially with each extra minute they take to get into a home or business.

**Question:** Where should a high security padlock be used?

- a) gates
- b) storage buildings
- c) delivery trucks

**Answer:** All of the above

The places you need a high security

padlock are endless; gates, storage buildings, toolboxes, trailers, hasps, delivery trucks.

**What can you do?**

Nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than two million homes are burglarized annually, resulting in estimated losses of \$2.5 billion. Master Lock Company offers the following inexpensive and easy preventive measures to make your home a tough target for burglars:

- Establish a locking routine whenever you leave your house, making sure to close and lock every door and window.
- Add a deadbolt to all outside doors and upgrade or replace all old locks.
- Establish a neighborhood watch group.
- Burglar-proof the outside of your home by trimming hedges and adding outdoor or motion sensitive lighting.
- Make sure your doors are durable. All exterior doors should be constructed of solid 1.5" thick hardwood or metal clad for maximum strength and resistance to attack.
- Install a home security system and display a sign on your front lawn or in a window alerting people that your house is protected.