

Prowlers



Prowlers use stealth to watch us and our property, often looking for easy targets for burglary. But there are things we can do on systems and personal levels to protect ourselves.

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even if you live or work in a “safe neighborhood.”
- Use wooden dowels to prevent windows and sliding doors from being opened.
- Contact facilities or maintenance for any issues affecting security, like broken locks or doors that don’t close and lock automatically.
- Have phone numbers for police, security, or campus safety readily available.
- Garage doors are easy to open using a coat hanger to reach the manual release. If your home or facility has garage doors, consider removing that handle.
- Use outdoor lighting to deter prowlers. Install motion-activated lighting around entries and dark areas. Use LED lights in the 4500-5500 Kelvin range.
- Install visible security cameras with night vision and cloud storage.
- Trim landscaping in line with crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles. This means shrubbery should be no higher than two feet, and tree canopies should be trimmed to hang no lower than six feet. This will provide better sightlines and reduce hiding places.
- Secure valuables. Don’t leave tools, ladders, or expensive items unsecured outside, and close curtains at night.

If you spot a prowler, do not confront them. Stay inside and call the police or your security office. Turn on the lights and make noise to scare them off. Record details like their clothing, vehicle, and the direction they fled.

Remember, prowlers look for easy, low-risk targets. These tactics can make you and your facility less appealing targets. A combination of **visibility**, **security measures**, and **awareness** can significantly reduce the risk. Stay proactive and ensure your home, campus, or business is a hard target.

