



OPEN GARAGE DOOR INDICATORS

Most homeowners think of burglars breaking a window or forcing a door open to gain access to a home, but nearly half of all residential burglaries occur through an unlocked door or window. The quickest and simplest means for burglars to gain entry is an open garage door. In recent years, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office has experienced numerous residential burglaries as the result of open doors or unsecured homes. An open door is an open invitation to crime. We have all done it – gone inside after working in the yard or retired to bed and left the garage door open. "Open garage door" indicators are available and can be affixed to your door immediately. A warning light will indicate "open door" when a garage door is open.

There are also automatic closers that will allow you to set a specific time to close the door automatically. It will work with most garage door openers and features a disable button that will allow you to keep the door open when you are in the garage working. Most automatic closers will also act as a temporary solution to garage doors opening on their own, which could happen due to a rogue signal that matches your access code or a short circuit in the electrical wiring that triggers the wall switch. These devices are available at most hardware or building supply stores that sell garage door supplies and openers. Prices range from \$20 to \$50.

Tips for securing your home and garage:

1. Secure all accessible entry points. Keep windows and doors locked when not at home or when you are in the basement, back part of the house, or in the yard. This will significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim.
2. Create the illusion of occupancy. Research clearly indicates the single greatest deterrent is an occupied house. You should acknowledge anyone who knocks or rings the doorbell. Opening a door and acknowledging someone at the door are two different things. **DO NOT OPEN** the door to a stranger! Announce yourself through a closed/locked door and indicate, "This is not a good time for visitors."
3. Physical security: Contact the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 871-5303 to schedule a residential security survey to identify your home's vulnerable entry points and determine how to best address your physical security needs.

Need more information? Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 772-871-5303.
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
"Raising the Standard...Through Community Partnerships"