

Safety at Home

Many real estate professionals do much of their work from home offices. You might want to consider additional security steps, above and beyond those that the typical homeowner might take. Here are a few tips:

- Consider investing in an alarm system if you don't already have one. If you do, make sure you have a panic button feature you can easily use in the office portion of the home.
- Even when you're using a regular telephone in your home office, also keep a fully charged mobile phone with you, just in case. Program your emergency phone numbers onto your office line as well as your mobile phone. Keep a printout of emergency numbers at your desk.
- Install a deadbolt lock on your office door, as well as on your exterior doors, so that you can lock yourself in while you call for help. If you work on the second floor of your home, buy a foldaway ladder in case you need to escape from a window.
- Place a wooden rod in the track of a sliding glass door so it can't be opened from outside.
- Observe ordinary, common sense safety measures such as having good locks on doors and windows, adequate outdoor lighting, motion sensors and an adequate supply of flashlights and batteries.

(Source: *San Diego REALTOR*®, July 2002; National Crime Prevention Council)

**REALTOR® Safety Week
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