



HOME SECURITY TIPS FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS

SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP KEEP YOUR FAMILY, HOME, AND VALUABLES
SAFE

Advancing Justice | AAJC is sharing these tips and resources because Asian American families across the country have recently reported break-ins and robberies in their communities. In some cases, prosecutors have alleged that Asian families were selected because of their race or ethnicity and have brought hate crime charges in connection with those burglaries and robberies. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. The following tips can help families strengthen home security and reduce the risk of burglary. However, no security measure is foolproof, and these recommendations should be used as part of a broader approach to staying safe and connected to your community.

1. MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

- Regularly lock windows and outside doors.
- Use strong deadbolt locks rated Grade 1 or 2 with a metal strike plate and use long screws.
- Keep entrances, walkways, and driveways well-lit at night with motion sensors where possible.
- Trim bushes, trees, and plants where someone or a hidden camera could hide.
- Place a temporary hold on mail, newspapers, and deliveries when traveling.
- Do not hide spare keys outside your home.

2. IMPROVE YOUR ALARM AND CAMERA SYSTEM

- Consider a professionally monitored alarm system using wired or cellular data with backup power from a trusted provider.
- Use cameras that save recordings and can quickly alert you and emergency contacts.
- Use strong passwords and turn on two-factor authentication for alarm systems and cameras accounts.
- Turn on alerts for these systems on your phone.
- Use alarm signs or window stickers as an additional deterrent.

3. WATCH FOR UNUSUAL ACTIVITY

- Ask for ID before opening your door or allowing entry to anyone you do not know or are not expecting, even if they wear a uniform or vest.
- Look for hidden cameras or unfamiliar objects near driveways, yards, and entryways.
- Document and report* suspicious activity if something looks out of place.
- Never confront a suspicious person alone.

* Before reporting information to law enforcement or government agencies, individuals should consider how personal information may be collected, stored, or shared. Mixed-status families and immigrant community members may wish to learn about local policies and consult trusted legal or community resources to better understand potential risks and reporting options.

4. KEEP VALUABLES PRIVATE

- Do not talk publicly about valuables, cash, jewelry, or safes.
- Do not share travel plans or post location updates and photos on social media until you return home.
- Keep a private list and photos of important valuables.
- Bring packages inside as soon as possible or use secure delivery options.

5. WORK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Join a neighborhood safety group or group chat if one exists, and get to know your neighbors.
- Check often on older family members.
- If you are worried about your safety or security, let trusted family members or friends know.
- Understand your local law enforcement agency's reporting processes and available resources.*

6. BE READY FOR ANY EMERGENCIES

- Keep a list of emergency contacts.
- Prepare a home evacuation plan and how to stay in touch with loved ones in an emergency.
- Prepare a “go bag” with supplies that you need for at least 72 hours.
- Take photos of important documents and keep them stored securely.
- Report* and document vandalism, violence, threats, suspicious, or hateful activity right away.

RESOURCES

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

- Neighborhood Watch Resources (National Neighborhood Watch): www.nnw.org
- Home and Neighborhood Safety (National Crime Prevention Council): www.ncpc.org
- Community Reporting and Support (Asian Resource Hub): www.asianresourcehub.org
- Report Hate Incidents and Find Support (Stand Against Hatred): www.standagainsthared.org

GOVERNMENT*

Some resources listed below provide options for reporting directly to government agencies.

- How to Avoid Scams When You Shop for a Home Security System (FTC*)
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scams-when-you-shop-home-security-system>
- Scams and Safety Resources (FBI*): www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety
- Cybersecurity Guidance (CISA*): www.cisa.gov
- Prepare for Emergencies (DHS*): www.ready.gov

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