

# For Sale by Owner Security Tips

- For your own safety, never set an appointment with anyone to see your home unless they have given you their name and number and you have called back to verify that number. An easy way to do this is to say: “let me check with my husband/wife for the best time and I will call you back.” Use this method even if you are not married.
- Never let potential buyers know your schedule. Don’t ever tell them when you won’t be at home, when your spouse won’t be home, when you pick up the kids, when you work, when you will be on vacation, etc.
- Never give a caller information about your home’s security, such as: deadlock bolts, security systems, etc.
- Always have a back-up plan when you allow strangers into your home, especially if you have children. Have a neighbor look out for you until buyers have gone.
- Never let a stranger into your home without seeing some identification. If the person says he/she is a real estate agent, ask for a business card, then call his/her office to verify the information if you don’t recognize the person.
- Keep a log of everyone who has looked at your house. Get their name, telephone number, address, car description, tag number, and any additional information that could be helpful in the event of a future burglary. All of these people would be suspect.
- If you make a flyer to advertise your home, don’t include any information that might breach security.
- Remove (from sight) all valuables, including guns, jewelry, etc. Recently, there was an incident in South Florida where a couple went around and stole items from the homes they visited. The couple actually stole over \$150,000 worth of valuables. We screen “all” potential buyers, before we let anyone into a listed home.
- Never leave strangers alone, and watch their every move while in your home. One of the latest scams, according to “real estate today magazine,” involves prescription drugs. A well dressed couple will make an appointment to view your house, and once inside, one of them will ask to use the bathroom, then will search for prescription drugs. Please make sure all prescriptions are well hidden.



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