

## **HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST**

Use this checklist as a general guide to inspect your home or a home you are considering buying for security concerns. Keep your eyes open and use good logic. This list is not all inclusive. Boxes checked "NO" indicate areas of concern which should be addressed immediately.

### **EXTERIOR DOORS:**

- Are all of the exterior doors metal clad or solid hardwood?  Yes  No
- Are both keyed entry locks and deadbolt locks present on all exterior doors?  Yes  No
- Are all exterior doors and door frames in good condition showing no signs of excess wear, damage or prior break-in?  Yes  No
- Do all exterior doors have peepholes which allow you to view visitors prior to opening the door?  Yes  No
- Are windows in or near doors reinforced in some way to prevent shattering or more than 40 inches away from door locks?  Yes  No
- Are the hinge pins for all doors located on the inside of the house?  Yes  No

### **SLIDING DOORS:**

- Do all sliding glass doors have working, factory installed key locks?  Yes  No
- Do all sliding glass doors have a dowel or pin to secure the door and prevent it from being lifted off of the track or shoved aside?  Yes  No

### **GARAGE DOORS:**

- Do all garage doors have working, keyed factory installed locking mechanisms?  Yes  No
- Do all garage doors fit properly on the tract and operate smoothly?  Yes  No
- Do all doors leading from the garage or carport into the home meet the same requirements of other exterior doors specified above?  Yes  No

### **WINDOWS:**

- Do all windows have keyed locks?  Yes  No
- Are all windows in good operating condition?  Yes  No
- Are all window panes present and not cracked or broken?  Yes  No
- Do all storm windows have working locks?  Yes  No

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-Clyde & Connie M., Clayton, Georgia*

**EXTERIOR LIGHTING:**

- Are working lights with inside switches present at each exterior door?  Yes  No
- Are ample working floodlights or other security lighting present?  Yes  No
- Are floodlights or other security lighting photo-cell or motion controlled?  Yes  No

**OTHER ISSUES:**

- Are fences in good condition?  Yes  No
- Are gates in good condition and lockable?  Yes  No
- Are shrubs trimmed below window ledges?  Yes  No
- Is the crawl space door lockable?  Yes  No
- Are any exterior access to the attic areas (pull down stairway in carport) lockable?  Yes  No
- Does the home have adequate secure storage for lawn equipment and other outdoor items?  Yes  No
- Is a monitored alarm system present and in working order?  Yes  No
- Does the alarm system have sensors on all exterior doors and windows or motion detectors in every room?  Yes  No
- Does the alarm system have a panic button?  Yes  No
- If the telephone wire junction box is on the exterior of the house, is it lockable to deter tampering?  Yes  No

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

You should be aware that often, the more secure you make a house the more difficult it is to exit in the event of a fire or other emergency. For example: for security purposes double cylinder deadbolt locks which require a key to both enter and exit are much more secure than single cylinder deadbolts which require a key only to enter. However, in a fire you may not be able to locate the key to exit the house. Keep in mind that security and ease of escape are often a trade-off and weigh the risks of each before adding security measures.

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**Brande (Brandy) Bradford**  
Licensed Georgia Real Estate Salesperson

Phone: 770-961-5520  
Fax: 770-968-5348  
E-Mail: [brande@bradfordrealtygroup.com](mailto:brande@bradfordrealtygroup.com)

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**Bradford Realty Group**  
1115-D Morrow Road  
Morrow, Ga 30260  
[www.bradfordrealtygroup.com](http://www.bradfordrealtygroup.com)

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