

SAFES FOR THE HOME



Photo courtesy of Browning®

■ By Michael Ware

Firearm sales are through the roof. We have an economy holding on by a thread. An honest reflection will lead anybody to believe neither is likely to change anytime soon. This leads to some dark places for the fraction of our culture that would rather steal than earn. I hate a thief folks, and I really do mean hate!

How do we protect ourselves against theft and burglary? Both active and passive security measures are helpful. Safes for your home, small vaults for your vehicle and your nightstand, as well as security systems reduce your chance of being a victim while keeping things safe and secure.

I'm a fan of big safes and rarely recommend a small safe. People store everything from weapons, family heirlooms and heirlooms, and important documents in safes so having a large enough safe to accommodate everything is a wise move. Off topic a bit, check with your CPA on eligibility to write off your safe purchase via itemized tax filing if you intend on storing your tax documents within it.

Whether you choose a bedside vault with a biometric finger print reader or combination lock, the same rules apply to these large safes. You'd be wise to go the extra mile and fasten them down. Safes are primarily broken into by being pushed onto their backs while long bars are used to pry the doors or frames open. Lagging your safe to the wall or floor will ward against this and leave few options for a burglar to gain access. The vast majority of small vaults have a cable you can buy so they can't be taken. These aren't absolute, but just like securing the safe to a wall; they dramatically reduce the number of successful attempts.

Both active and passive deterrents are necessary in a well secured home. Examples of passive security would be things as simple as signage. When a thief

drives by and you have a visible "ADT Security" sign in the yard and stickers on your door right above the dead bolt, you've given the average thief something to think about. They are forced to decide whether to gamble on your house or move on to a home without a security sign. Statistics show burglaries drop with homes that display visible signage. Motion lights are great choices for passive security along with outside video cameras. Some external cams are no more than a fake housing with a blinking light, while most are either wired or wireless cameras to a DVR (digital video recorder). I prefer wired systems myself, as the majority of

and when, our goal should be stopping them from choosing your home all together. If they do, we'd like to turn them around in their tracks. This leads into active security measures.

I like the idea of a 150 decibel alarm going off the instant some low life gains entry to my home. It is rare that an intruder continues his activity once a brain freezing alarm jolts him and the neighborhood from the 3AM silence. Yes, I'll have some glass to clean up, but my family will be safe and the contents of the home intact. Many of the large security companies now offer plans as low as \$5 a week for basic security. If you buy cheap you get cheap, so be

careful and methodical in your choice and make a wise choice. Using a system that wakes you up in the night when a blowfly buzzes around usually ends with the security system turned off and that benefits only the criminals.

As firearm owners we have a great responsibility to keep our collections safe and secure. However, securing our firearms doesn't have to be the end of the discussion. Securing our families and taking measures to retain the sanctity of our homes can be achieved with some thought, a plan, and the diligence to keep the ball bouncing. Stay safe friends. 🤖

MOTION LIGHTS ARE GREAT CHOICES FOR PASSIVE SECURITY ALONG WITH OUTSIDE VIDEO CAMERAS.

these cameras require hard wiring for their power source. Wireless systems are ok, but many users comment on poor reception or interference, so choose carefully and don't be afraid to ask questions on this subject.

Some people opt for trail cams hidden in various places around the home and property. I like this idea, but while you may catch a glimpse of who robbed you



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