

How to Respond to a Knock at Your Front Door

Regardless of the type of home you live in, there are crime prevention measures you can take when responding to a knock at your front door.

1. Always have a verbal response to a knock at your door

Avoid giving the impression that no one is home. Knocking on the door may be a ploy of the home invader or a burglar to decide if anyone is home. Teach your children what to say at the door when they are home alone. Do not open the door to respond through a security chain.

2. Keep an eye on the person you turn away and what they do next

Report anyone who lingers, tries to get a neighbor to open their door, or otherwise acts suspiciously. They may have left your front door, but they are still a concern to others. Call the police if necessary and ask that this individual be checked out. **Non-emergency number is 3-1-1 and emergency number is 9-1-1.**

3. In a gated community, take the precautions you would if the gate were not there!

If someone calls your home from the gate or creates a reason to be let into the neighborhood, **do not** let them in if you cannot verify who they are.

4. Be suspicious of unexpected knocks.

If you are not expecting anyone, service call or otherwise, **do not** open the door without asking questions and verifying first.

5. Be aware of ploys such as fake emergencies, fake deliveries, etc.

Know that the person knocking may have a practiced or rehearsed a message and it may sound legitimate. Be just as cautious if the person is a woman, young person, or a male. You can always keep the door shut and offer to call 911 to help them in an emergency

6. Use your viewing methods to help verify.

Peep holes, nearby windows, and vantage points from other rooms may be used to see who is knocking. Enhanced peep holes are recommended.

7. Do not feel pressured or forced to open your door.

You have the ability to allow those into your home that you know and trust. All others are not welcome - or worth the risk!

8. Consider a high quality security screen door or enclosed porch / entry way to maintain a barrier between you and the person at your door.

This allows a second barrier between the door into your home. You can open your home door and have the security door locked.

9. Install and maintain adequate security lighting

Keep the lights on your porch on at night. The sides and back of your home should also be well lit.



For more information, please contact
Southeast Area Command C.O.P
Phone: 702-828-3038