

OPEN HOUSE SAFETY

CLOSING THE DOOR ON POSSIBLE THREATS



In preparing for an open house, you need more than balloons and cookies; you need a safety plan in place before, during and after the visitors show up. Use the following checklist to minimize your risks.

BEFORE THE OPEN HOUSE

- Prepare the Sellers** – Tell them to secure valuables, prescription drugs included.
- Assess the Marketing** – Showing valuables and vacant properties entices criminals.
- Never Work Alone** – Get a friend, family member or business associate to join you.
- Meet the Neighbors** – Neighbors provide extra eyes and ears (and potential new business).
- Use a Cloud-based Camera** – On-site surveillance is a crime deterrent.
- Survey the Physical Layout of the Property** – Backyards and tight spaces are safety concerns.
- Visit Police and Fire Stations** – Invite law enforcement to stop by for refreshments.

DURING THE OPEN HOUSE

- Avoid Certain Rooms** – Avoid getting trapped in tight quarters or isolated areas like attics.
- Add Doorbell Alerts** – Put an alert on door handles to tell you when someone new enters.
- Evaluate Every Prospect** – Take notes on guests' appearances, names and vehicles.
- Check In Regularly** – Stay in contact with a buddy if you happen to be alone.

AFTER THE OPEN HOUSE

- Close with a Buddy** – Have someone with you when you close up.
- Secure the Home** – Double-check that every window is or has remained locked.
- Express Gratitude** – Thank any neighbors or law enforcement that stopped by.

RESOURCES

Wooten, A. (2009). *The Real Estate Guide to Safety: Unleashing the Power of YOU*. S.A.F.E. Publishing.

stewart.com/safety

