Peeping Tom Prevention
Your home is supposed to be your private dwelling to relax and enjoy your personal life away from work, commuting, school and the outside world. However, with cases of peeping toms and voyeurism on the rise, make your home voyeur-proof by reviewing our checklist. It is easy to do and you can make slight adjustments around the house that can make a huge difference in maintaining your privacy from prying eyes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
The good news is that you can take steps now to prevent you and your family from becoming victims of a peeping tom. Take a safety walk inside and outside your house at night AND during the day to locate voyeur-viewing areas. Use the buddy system where one of you is inside the room being inspected and the other is on the outside looking inside. Remember, you need to look for even for the tiniest peephole or crack.

A person’s eye, binoculars or camera lens can peer through a very tiny opening.

CHECKLIST FOR PREVENTING PEEPERS:

Check Window Coverings
☐ Uncovered windows; Sheer curtains and loose blinds;
☐ Crack openings in sides of curtains or blinds
☐ Blinds that are not closed tightly enough; Blinds that are closed on the wrong angle; Frosted windows that have clear etchings

Check Doors
☐ Cracks around doors; Frosted panels that have clear etchings
☐ Door window panels that are uncovered; panels that have sheer curtains; panels that have crack openings in sides of curtains or blinds

Check Outside
☐ Places where a voyeur can quickly hide from view
Note where they are and consider removing areas to hide, cutting down very tall brush, installing lights or lights with motion detectors.
☐ Plantings around doors, windows
For vulnerable areas, consider planting short bushes that prevent climbing or standing, but are not too large or tall to hide in. Consider plants such as hawthorns, juniper, rose bushes, cactus.
☐ Areas where a person can climb to view decks or porches, second floors or rooftops.
For vulnerable areas, consider positioning or planting short bushes or plants that prevent climbing or standing, but are not too large or tall to hide in. Also consider lights, motion detectors or combinations of lights with motion detectors.
Check Inside
☐ Check windows and doors from the inside.
Where needed, use sticky notes, tape or bandages to close up cracks in curtains.
Replace sheer curtains. Close shades at the right angle.
☐ Check for mirrors that provide reflections to private areas of the living space.
If needed, slightly change the angle or placement of the mirror.
☐ Check cracks, holes for hidden viewing areas or places to hide hidden cameras.
For a quick solution, place sticky notes or bandages over peepholes. Inspect them closely for anything unusual or possibly a camera lens. For law enforcement - don’t remove or put your fingerprints around it. Get a large sticky note or bandage and cover up the lens. Then phone police to inspect the camera equipment.

SAFETY SOLUTIONS
☐ Purchase thicker curtains; Keep curtains and blinds shut tightly especially at night in private areas of the house.
☐ Set up potted plants or plant vegetation near viewing or perching areas.
☐ Install a motion detector system with a light in vulnerable areas outside the house.
☐ Consider window alarms at vulnerable areas of the house - bathroom and bedroom.; Purchase a motion detector with a barking dog sound alert.
☐ Especially at night, listen for movement outside, stepping on branches, climbing on rooftops.; Talk to neighbors and share information about unusual visitors or loitering in the neighborhood.
☐ Keep a camera at hand for taking pictures of a peeping tom. An example is the Cyber Eye; it will take pictures of any movement and record the time and date on the picture. This works whether or not you are around. Another option is to turn the tables – have a cell phone camera that will allow you quick access to taking a picture. One woman did this and the voyeur was caught in the local neighborhood.
☐ Be aware of anyone acting strangely toward you, saying “knowing comments” about your life or presuming that they know you very well when they don’t.

Call 911!
City of Fayetteville
North Carolina - Police Department
Det. K. Berg—(910) 433-1856

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