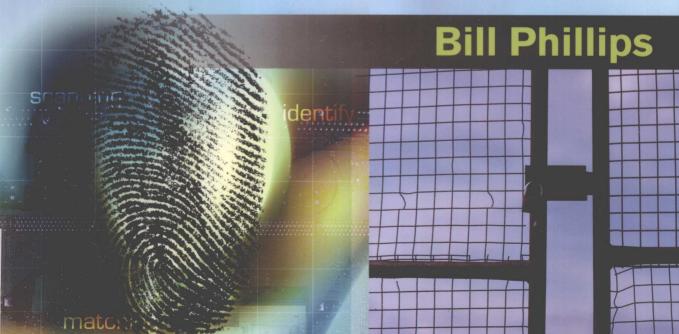


THE COMPLETE BOOK OF

HOME, SITE, AND OFFICE SECURITY

Selecting, Installing, and Troubleshooting
Systems and Devices



The Complete Book of Home, Site, and Office Security

Selecting, Installing, and Troubleshooting Systems and Devices

Bill Phillips

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The Complete Book of Home, Site, and Office Security

Other Books by the Author

The Complete Book of Locks and Locksmithing, Sixth Edition Locksmithing The Complete Book of Electronic Security

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Preface

For about the last 20 years I've been writing books and articles about various aspects of physical and electronic security, including *The Complete Book of Locks and Locksmithing*, 6th edition, and *The Complete Book of Electronic Security*, both published by McGraw-Hill. But I haven't written a comprehensive book on home, office, and site security since 1994. A lot has changed since then, so I decided to write this book.

Whether you want to become a better security professional, improve the security of your own home, office, or site, or hire a security professional, this book can help you. You can use it to prepare for a variety of professional security certification and registration tests, including the certified protection professional (CPP), the registered professional locksmith (RPL), and the registered security professional (RSP). Copies of the RPL and RSP tests are included in Appendixes A and B, respectively.

This book covers a wide range of safety- and security-related topics, including strengthening doors and windows, choosing the best locks, using state-of-the-art access control systems, lighting for safety and security, using closed-circuit television systems, improving computer security, defending against terrorism, fire safety, and providing security consulting.

This book will teach you how to think like a security professional and not like a fire victim or burglar. That's because most burglars don't know a whole lot about security. They generally just take advantage of easy opportunities because most people aren't very security conscious.

You've probably heard these three myths:

- 1. If burglars want to get in badly enough, you can't keep them out.
- 2. The only way to keep burglars out is to use expensive high-tech devices.
- 3. Most home and office fires are unavoidable without taking expensive precautions.

Often such myths are perpetuated in books and articles written by well-meaning journalists who use crime or fire victims or "former burglars" as primary sources of information. But neither a burglar nor a crime victim is a security expert.

Contrary to movies and television crime dramas, the criminals who break into homes are not James Bond clones. Most home burglars know little about defeating locks or electronic security systems. Many rely on just one or two quick, quiet, and simple entry techniques, and they search for homes at which they can use those methods.

Home security articles and books that are based on advice from burglars often contain misleading, incomplete, and potentially dangerous information. In many cases the advice one burglar gives to thwart his or her favorite breakin technique can make it easier for other burglars to use their techniques.

Good security advice isn't based on scattered facts or personal anecdotes but rather on a comprehensive understanding of security measures, security hardware, and electronic systems. I've never been burglarized, attacked, or had a car stolen, nor have I ever been a criminal, but I have had years of training and experience in locksmithing, safe and vault work, alarm system installation, martial arts, and security consulting. I've also lived in some of the highest crime areas in the United States, including New York City and Detroit. I know that it is possible for people to stay safe and protect their property without spending a lot of money.

As you read this book, you'll learn how to assess intelligently safety and security needs and how best to meet those needs in a cost-effective way. If you or someone you know has been victimized by household crime or fire, you'll probably discover within these pages why the incident occurred and how it might have been prevented.

Each chapter includes do-it-yourself projects, money-saving tips, and practical advice that you can use right now, whether you live in a large city or a small town. Nearly every sentence of this book is written in nontechnical language, so you should have no trouble following the advice and instructions. However, I've included a Glossary that should be helpful if you find an unfamiliar word.

Chapter 16 includes a comprehensive home safety and security checklist to guide you in surveying a home. You may want to glance at it now, but you'll benefit more by using the checklist after you've read the whole book.

Because all the topics in this book are interrelated, you'll get the most out of it by reading it from beginning to end. Even if you skip around, you'll discover new ways to protect your home, your car, your family, and your business.

If you have questions or comments about this book, I'd love to hear from you. You can write to me at: Box 2044, Erie, PA 16512-2044, or e-mail me at LocksmithWriter@aol.com.

BILL PHILLIPS

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