

SAFETY TIPS

WHILE YOUR HOME IS ON THE MARKET



12 Steps to help keep your family safe & protect your valuables while your home is on the market:

Provided courtesy of your professional neighborhood REALTOR

1. **NEVER** let strangers who walk up to your door into your home. Make them schedule an appointment in advance. Also, advise your children not to let anyone in the house, no matter what they say. Even if they claim to be a real estate agent and present a business card (anyone can print those), they need to follow procedure.
2. **ALWAYS** screen prospective buyers before they step foot into your home. Ask for employment information and get a work phone number in addition to a home phone number. Do internet research such as “Google” their name and confirm they live where they claim or call their landlord. You can also search public records and talk to their lender to confirm they are legitimate buyers.
3. **NEVER** give your home phone number to buyers. Would-be criminals will know when you are not home if they call and you do not answer.
4. **NEVER** give your work or home schedule to buyers. Telling would-be buyers that no one is home at a certain time of the day (for example, “We don’t get off until 5:00, so I can show you after then”) lets them know the perfect time to come and victimize your home; when you aren’t there.
5. **NEVER** show your home alone. There is safety in numbers. Have another adult with you. Also, avoid exposing your children to strangers in the house.
6. **ALWAYS** accompany buyers throughout your house at all time. This allows you to prevent theft and the unlocking of windows and doors for later re-entry when you aren’t home.
7. **HIDE** all valuables. Including jewelry, bank information, prescription medications, etc. Hide them where thieves don’t think to look. If necessary, put valuables in storage. This means jewelry boxes, medicine out of medicine cabinets and guns/weapons in locked safes. Do not allow them to use your bathroom. Put all mail away, including credit card bills and bank statements. Put away personal photos of family members.
8. **ALWAYS** have your escape route pre-planned. In case of the need for an emergency exit. Know exactly which door you will use for your exit. Nothing or no one should be allowed to block your emergency exit.
9. **NEVER** let buyers get between your and your escape route. The front or back door. You would never enter a room in front of a buyer. Buyers always go first.
10. **ALWAYS** let someone; relative, friend or better yet a neighbor know who’s coming to see your house and the time frame. Share your check-in time and completion time. If they don’t hear from you at a pre-determined time, they need to call 911 or get to you house immediately.
11. **KEEP** your cordless home phone in hand at all times in case you need to call for help. This is better than a cell phone because with 911 your address will show up on the dispatch operator’s screen even if you cannot talk. Research location emergency apps that call for help when you are unable to make a phone call. Utilize emergency location based apps too.
12. **BEWARE** of over-sharing on social media. This includes your children. Don’t share or brag about vacations or plans to go out. Don’t photograph and show or brag about expensive artwork, electronics or even have them in the background of personal pictures. Be especially careful when photographing the rooms for marketing purposes. Don’t announce open houses, your house’s price or amenities on social media.

If you are uncomfortable taking these extra precautionary steps, call the real estate agent who shared this information. They have been trained to protect not only themselves, but to advise you on protecting your family and valuables as well.



Kelsi Hach REALTOR®

NextHome Legendary Properties
114 W Main Avenue, Bismarck ND, 58504

c 701.471.6198 | o 701.712.8900
e KelsiHach@gmail.com | w KelsiHachRealty.com

Facebook.com/BismarckMandanRealEstate

