

# Burglar gives expert advice on house protection

By RON BROWNING  
The Daily Ledger, Fishers

**NOBLESVILLE** - Floyd Poore says no house is safe from burglars.

He should know. The 47-year-old Tennessee native spent the better part of three decades breaking into houses and businesses.

He made a good living at it, too, because people made it easy for him, he said.

"I could make more doing that than working," Poore said, then grinning widely. "People make the mistake where they leave stuff out in the open. People do it to themselves."

Poore has been in prison since April 1983, serving time for burglary and theft convictions from five different counties, including Hamilton.

He is expected to be released from the Pendleton Reformatory in the year 2008.

Sitting in a conference room at the facility, tattoos cover the arms of the self-confessed career criminal.

Poore speaks in a slow, southern drawl as he recalls his past outside the prison walls.

He's robbed more houses than he can remember. He would strike when his victims were most vulnerable when they were out shopping or away on vacation.

As temperatures increase, more people take vacations. That is when burglars go to work.

"More burglaries occur in the summer than any other season because more people are away from home," said Phil Bell, a home security expert.

Bell is vice president and general manager of SecurityLink from Ameritech, the country's second largest security monitoring company.

Burglaries increase 10 to 18 percent in the summer, Bell said.

Most thieves don't want to confront anyone, Bell said, so they wait until everyone is gone.

Poore would watch a house for a few days before making his move.

People are creatures of habit, Poore said. They wake up, leave home and return at the same times every day.

"I'd watch you for about a week and get your pattern down," Poore said. "Then I'd hit you on your vulnerable day."

But Poore wouldn't break into a house unless he knew it was going to be worth his time.

His victims would let him know.

People love to show off their possessions, Poore said. But nice stereos, antiques and gun cases attract more than just innocent admiration.

"That's advertising," Poore said. "Somebody goes down the road and looks in the picture window and there it sets."

He never entered a house blindly, Poore said. He would target specific items before ever planning a burglary.

More often than not, someone familiar with the house would hire him to break in and steal a certain item. While inside, if something else caught his eye, he'd take it, too.

It would take only 20 to 30 minutes to clean out a house, Poore said.

He never kept items he stole. That's an easy way to get caught, Poore said.

Like a wholesale distributor, Poore had regular customers who would buy the items he took.

Guns are the easiest to sell,

Poore said. But his biggest payday came in 1987 when he was hired to steal \$180,000 worth of gold coins from a house.

Getting into a house was even easier than finding out what was inside, he said.

Locks, dogs and alarm systems couldn't keep him out. He could always find a way to get into even the most secure homes.

"I ain't seen the house yet that can't be burglarized," Poore said.

If a burglar wants to get into a house, they'll find a way, Bell said.

The trick is to make the burglar's job as hard as possible, Bell said.

Many home owners are turning to expensive security systems that include closed-circuit TV, motion detectors and glass-breakage detectors, Bell said.

But police say a few common sense safeguards can be as important as any state-of-the-art alarm system.

"Society, overall, makes it easy for people to steal because we're lazy," said Ken Whisman, a County Sheriff's Department sergeant. "We don't take precautions to protect our property."

Little things such as checking locks on doors and windows to make sure valuables are not out in the open are the first steps in thwarting burglars.

Engraving your name and Social Security number in valuable items like stereos and TVs deters burglars because it makes them harder to sell, Whisman said.

Being a good neighbor may be the best way to keep burglars out of your house, Noblesville Police Chief Dick Russell said.

"Know your neighbors and help each other out," Russell said. "If you see something suspicious in your neighborhood, report it."

Have a neighbor collect your mail and newspapers, even cut your grass, if you're on vacation, Russell said.

Neighbors were Poore's biggest enemy when he was breaking into a home.

"If you're going to leave the house, notify your neighbors, I don't care if you're just going to the store," Poore said.

Any house can be broken into, Poore said, but a perceptive neighbor can make it a lot harder.

Neighbors were Poore's biggest enemy when he was breaking into a home.

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from home for even a few days, they say you should:

■ Notify your neighbors so that they can watch for any suspicious activity.

■ Check the locks on your doors and windows. Install dead-bolts on your doors if they are not already there.

■ Secure sliding doors with pins. Placing a board or bar in the track might not be effective because burglars may take the entire door off the track.

■ Don't stop your mail or newspaper service because burglars will notice. Instead have someone pick those items up each day.

■ If you plan to be gone longer than a week, have someone cut your grass while you are away.

■ Don't leave a message on your voice mail or answering machine giving a specific time when you will return. While you are away, check your messages each day.

■ Install timing devices that will turn on lights and stereos at a specific time each day. Have them come on at times you would normally turn on those appliances. Also, place a radio in a room that cannot be seen from outside the house.

**Tips** Law-enforcement and security officials say residential burglaries increase during the summer because more people are on vacation. If you plan to be away

# Metal roofs need maintenance

By POPULAR MECHANICS  
For AP SPECIAL FEATURES

Metal roofing, while adding a unique or period touch to your home, often brings up questions regarding maintenance and installation. As far as painting goes, Terne (copper and tin plate), should be painted as soon after application as conditions will permit with a red iron-oxide, linseed-oil vehicle primer to prevent corrosion. This paint, which is brush-applied, is very slow drying with a 72-hour drying time. This is followed with a compatible linseed-oil finish coat.

In the old days, folks just used two coats of the red iron-oxide primer, which is the reason many of us picture old metal roofs as red. Today, the compatible finish is available in a variety of colors. Depending on environmental conditions, expect to repaint about every eight years. Some of the metal shingles

manufactured today are made from galvanized steel, the same way they were at the turn of the century. Like Terne, galvanized steel should be painted. This smooth, slick and shiny surface must be etched or roughened up before paint will adhere to it properly. Today, most of the major paint companies sell self-etching primers for use on new galvanized panels.

Terne-coated stainless steel (TCS) blends the best of yesterday and today: the durability and permanence of Terne make it a virtually maintenance-and-corrosion-free product. TCS is type 304 stainless steel that's coated on both sides with a Terne alloy that's 20 percent tin and 80 percent lead. It's considered self-healing because the Terne coating is anodic to the stainless steel.

officially to protect the base plate. Because of the way it resists corrosion, TCS is a good choice for severe marine or industrial climates. Under most conditions, its unpainted surface will weather to a warm gray.

Another self-healing alloy used in the manufacture of metal roofing is Galvalume, a sheet-metal product with an aluminum-zinc alloy coating. This material also requires no paint

and, if left to its own devices, will weather and eventually look like dark zinc. It's also available in a variety of factory-finished colors.

Fortunately, installing metal shingles isn't much different from installing any other composite single roof. Any roofing contractor will be able to do it. So should any of you do-it-yourselfers who aren't afraid of heights and are willing to tackle a roofing job.

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