

As a service to my community and to help people that I may have at one time wronged, as well as for my own healing process I would like to answer some of these questions a little more in depth from the stand point of someone who committed these type of crimes for almost 20 years.

I ask to please still stay anonymous to the community, if you do decide to speak about my letter.

Hoping to bring insight to those so they can truly feel safe and secure in their own homes.

#1. How did you typically break into a home or apartment? A unlocked door or window has always been the easiest way as well as large doggy doors, lots of people have these doggy doors leading into their garages yet leave the door from the garage into the house unlocked. On newer houses people have weatherized plastic framed windows, these are very easy to strip of their plastic with a simple pocket knife and access the lock on the window to unlock it.

For as long as there have been locks, safes and so forth there have been criminals, lock smiths and magicians to learn their weaknesses. In my opinion sadly this will never change.

#2. Once inside, what was the first thing you looked to steal? The first thing of any monetary value. My first thought is scan the bottom floor for any alarm system on the walls, and if there is to see if it is activated or a silent alarm. Next, straight to the master bedroom to search beds, drawers, closets, boxes or if there is a hidden floor, wall or ceiling space. Most people keep all there valuables close to them where they feel they are most safe but in reality they are not. Large gun safes and safes that are bolted into the floor or wall are the most difficult to deal with unless the key or combo is hidden in a near by desk or night stand. Safes that can not be picked up or carried off are too much work for possibly no reward.

#3. Where did you look for hidden valuables? Everywhere! From the stove and freezer, to the fish tank and toilet tank, book shelves and in boxes of cereal.

#4. What time of the day did you prefer to break in? Between 12:30pm and 2:30pm. Anyone that was home for lunch should be gone by then and most kids should all still be in school, to me it seemed like the perfect opportunity during the day and the less chances of someone being home or coming home while I would be there.

#5. Did home protection or security signs posted outside the home deter you? Very rarely, between the internet and things that would I guess be called tricks of the trade, a home owners simple or unconscious mistake could have lead to my entry into their home. A window that is left open with an air conditioner could be a way into someone's house without triggering the alarm. A simple toy or gimmick spy or detective set can have a finger print duster, and the only numbers ever touched on a home alarm key pad are the disable numbers that are generally some sort of date or something to that effect. Once a criminal has the 4 digits to your alarm system they have approximately 60 seconds to find the correct combination. The list does go on, holes in walls and doors to avoid the sensors being disturbed, wires that can be cut and so on.

#6. Did pets in the home-like a dog make you think twice? Almost never. Animals can sense nerves, if an individual is calm and patient and is sweet to the animal then the majority of the time the dog will be your friend and not an issue, it doesn't hurt to bring some food like hotdogs for them also.

#7. Did you typically knock on the front door before breaking into a home or apartment? Yes, almost always unless I have been watching the place to know their schedule (most people are creatures of habit and find comfort in a routine).

#8. If someone answered the front door, what would you do or say?~ What do most random people at your door want? Some times I recite their address to them and insure them a friend told me they lived at the address, sometimes I would wear nice clothing and print a questionnaire off the Internet and carry a clipboard and see if they could spare a moment for an anonymous survey. Random different things at random different times.

#9. If a home alarm system went off, what would you do? Depending on the situation, I would try to turn it off or get the hell out of there.

#10. If there was a security camera visible, would it keep you from breaking in? Most times yes, but keep in mind a camera is no help if something of extreme value in the home. Cameras only record what they can see, faces, tattoos, clothing, shoes. If a criminal is smart enough they will cover there face and hands, and destroy all clothing and shoes after the crime has been committed, that kind of trouble is only worth it if what is in the home is worth the trouble.

- #11. Did lights on in the home make you think twice? Almost always. Even if I did know the home owners schedule.
- #12. If you heard a radio or TV on inside the home would you still break in? Rarely but yes.
- #13. Would it make a difference if there was a vehicle in the driveway? Yes, most of the time that is a sure fire sign of someone being home.
- #14. What was your ideal target for burglary? A large house, at least a million dollar home if not more (no matter if you burglarize a mobile home or a mansion it is still the same criminal charge(at least the home owner of the mansion is more likely to have good home owners insurance and in a better financial place, and less likely to feel as many repercussions to the crime as say the owner of a mobile home. Plus a criminal is just more likely to get more from a larger home)), large trees, bushes or shrubs around the home, or very reserved and conservative neighbors. Also knowing there was large amounts of money or jewelry in the home, no alarm, and knowing the home owners schedule as well as everyone that lived in the home and what their vehicles looked like.
- #15. Did you ever do surveillance on your target? Yes.
- #16. If you did surveillance, what were you trying to figure out? Pretty much everything I've explained. Who lives in the home, what are their weekday schedules (weekends are too unpredictable), what they drive, is there a dog, a hidden key. Humans are creatures of habit and sadly people like the person I used to be, sometimes realize that and take advantage of it.
- #17. What is the one thing homeowners can do to avoid being burglarized? Honestly I wish I knew. The percent of burglaries that go unsolved is very high, last time I checked it was up around 70% maybe more. That makes burglary a fairly safe crime. My best advice, put bars on your windows and doors, get an alarm, keep an extra car in the driveway, keep lights, TV's and radio's on when you leave your home. Also be good friends with your neighbors, have a true neighborhood watch, the signs that are up are usually nothing more than a scare tactic or to give people a false sense of security. Locks will always have weak points and someone out there will always know how to bypass or disable your alarms. This is all sad but very true.
- I am very sorry for my past, now all I wish is to right my wrongs and have a normal life. Thank you for giving me the chance to help and give back something that will actually help people.