



Spartan Firearms Training Group, LLC

Tip of the Day—July 23, 2025

🔥 Home Defense Starts *Before* the Break-In 🔥

Critical Principles of Home Defense

I occasionally teach a home defense course for the United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA). Below, you will find some of the key principles covered in the class. Remember that your gun is a tool, not a plan. If you own a firearm for home defense, the following advice can be helpful.

🔒 **1. Have a Plan – Not Just a Gun**

Owning a gun doesn't make you ready. Planning and training do.

- Talk with your family—what's the plan during a break-in? Create a map of your home's layout and review it with everyone to ensure everyone is on the same page. Who goes where to do what? Who calls 911?
 - Strengthen exterior doors with deadbolt locks using three-inch screws.
 - Install a security system, or, at the very least, place security signs outside your home.
 - Consider installing a Ring camera doorbell or a Blink camera system (we have both)
 - Identify where you'll defend from—use cover, not just concealment.
 - You're not a SWAT operator. Survival is the goal, not clearing rooms. (Paul and I train with special operations veterans. They repeatedly advise us not to clear rooms unless necessary. Why? Because it's deadly dangerous and even spec ops veterans die clearing rooms.)
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2. Know Your Home Inside and Out

You live there—use that to your advantage.

- Walk your home at night, lights off. Know the creaks, shadows, and hazards.
 - Understand your fields of fire—and what's behind them. One missed shot can cost everything.
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3. Train to Win

Range time is excellent. But real defense is messy, fast, and dark.

- Train regularly to sharpen your gun handling and marksmanship skills.
 - Keep your finger off the trigger until you need to shoot.
 - Practice low-light shooting, with and without a flashlight.
 - Run dry-fire drills from bed to your defensive position.
 - If you *must* move through the house, GET REAL TRAINING FIRST!
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4. Choose the Right Firearm & Ammo

What works in war zones doesn't always work in hallways.

- Opt for defensive shotguns, AR pistols, or handguns with lights.
 - Use home-defense ammo—frangible, hollow points, or controlled buckshot. Stop the threat *without* over-penetrating. FMJ rounds can penetrate drywall and the exterior walls of your house.
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5. Light It Up

You *must* ID the threat before pulling the trigger. Be sure of your target and what lies behind and around it.

- Weapon-mounted or handheld lights are a must.
- Be sure of your target. Never shoot at sounds or shadows. Innocent lives are at stake. Light gives you control.
- Practice shooting while holding your light if it is not attached to your gun.

✂ 6. Safe Storage & Rapid Access

You need both **security** and **speed**—especially with kids around. In Maryland and other states, you are legally required to secure firearms if there are children under the age of 16 living in the house.

- Use quick-access safes near the bed or in key locations.
 - Train to open them in the dark, under pressure.
 - “Leaving it out” isn’t readiness—it’s risk.
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☎ 7. Call the Police—Before and After

- Call 911 as soon as it’s safe. Tell them you’re armed, defending your home, and where you are located inside the house. Please give them your physical description.
 - Once it’s over, **secure your firearm** before officers arrive. Get the gun out of your hands!
 - Say: “I was in fear for my life.” Then stop talking until your lawyer is present.
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⚖ 8. Legal and Moral Readiness

- Know your state’s laws—Castle Doctrine and Stand Your Ground aren’t universal.
 - Ask yourself: Could you *truly* take a life if you had to? We’ve had customers in our classes who tell us they could not take the shot. This is serious business. Be mentally and emotionally prepared *before* it ever happens.
 - Purchase firearms owners protection, for example, from USCCA and CCW Safe. Legal representation is expensive.
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🧠 9. Control the Fight: Don’t Chase It

- Don’t play hero. Hold your ground. Let the intruder come to you.
 - Sweeping your house solo is a great way to die. We learned that lesson while training with veterans of our special operations.
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10. Practice Good Situational Awareness

The best fight is the one you prevent.

- Don't fall into the "Normalcy Trap," as in "That could NEVER happen to us."
 - Lock doors and windows. Use motion lights and cameras.
 - Do a security scan of your home—windows, doors, shrubs offering possible concealment to a criminal, and so on--where are the vulnerable points?
 - Don't post your valuables online.
 - Don't post photos of your firearms online.
 - Don't post vacation plans online
 - Trust your gut—if something feels wrong, it probably is.
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Final Word

Home defense is about mindset, not just firepower.

Your firearm is a tool. **Your real weapon is your calm, trained, and prepared mind.** Stay ready. Stay responsible.
