

Burglary Prevention Tips

Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for uncut lawns and stuffed mailboxes. In the evening, they look for darkened houses or lights that have been left on too long. The following burglary prevention tips will help to make you and your family safer while home or away on vacation.

The Burglary Basics

- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors!
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Do not allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers, or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices, as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Some windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

Do not tempt a thief:

- Lawn mowers, weed eaters, barbecue grills, and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.

- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- Never leave notes on your door such as “Gone shopping.”

Locks...get the best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Windows:

- Most windows can be pinned for security.
- Drill a 3/16” hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame- place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.

If your home is broken into:

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

1. Do not enter- the perpetrator may still be inside.
2. Use your cell phone or a neighbor's phone to call 9-1-1.
3. Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
4. Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
5. Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes, or other “secret” hiding places—burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from the home—this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms, and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately.
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce the risk of burglary.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.

The **most** important thing you can do is **call the police** to report a crime or **any** suspicious activity. You must be the eyes of your neighborhood and remember you can always remain anonymous.

Remember the three L's of Crime Prevention: **Lights, Locks & the Lower Providence Police.**

Light up your residence, **Lock** your doors at all times, and call the **Lower Providence Police** when you see something suspicious.