



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

Residential burglaries account for 18% of all serious crimes with 50% being unreported. Burglars select targets based on a few key factors such as:

- Familiarity with target and convenience of location;
- Occupancy;
- Visibility or surveillability;
- Accessibility;
- Vulnerability or security; and
- Potential rewards.



TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF & HOME

EXTERIOR OF RESIDENCE

Doors

- Lock all doors at all times.
- Use solid wood or metal doors frames.
- Use deadbolt locks (also on garage service doors).
- Install a peephole.
- Unplug garage door if on vacation.
- Never leave notes on your door for delivery person.
- Place an extra lock on sliding glass doors (place a bar/piece of wood in the door track).
- Install locking hinges that slide over sliding door tracks to prevent it from being forced open.
- Adjust sliding glass door track clearances to prevent the door from being pushed or lifted out of the track.

- Repair any broken/damaged door locks or latches.
- Install double wide cylinder deadbolts in glass doors.
- Change all exterior locks when first moving in or if living arrangements change.

Windows

- Close all windows before leaving home.
- Properly lock all windows including basement windows.
- Consider window pinning (insert pin, rail or wooden pole above window to prevent it from being opened).
- Windows with air conditioners should be nailed or screwed in place.

Outdoor lighting

- Install motion detectors and proper lighting in concealed or dark area and if you have a privacy fence.
- Purchase a timer for your lights if you are gone at night.
- Make sure motion lights are high enough so that someone cannot reach up and unscrew the light bulb or place a grid type cover over the light to prevent access to the bulb.

Proactive Measures for Exterior of Residence

By doing a few things to the exterior of your residence, you could reduce your chance of becoming a victim. Here are a few things to consider:

- Clean up your yard by removing ladders from the exterior of your residence along with tools and other yard equipment which could be useful in gaining entry to your residence.



- Make sure that your house numbers are clearly visible to ensure that the police could respond to your residence quicker and more effectively.
- Trim shrubbery away from windows and maintain them at a low height.
- Lock your car when it is parked on the street, driveway or in the garage and never leave the keys in the vehicle.
- Keep a watchful eye out for suspicious footprints or damage marks left on the exterior doors and windows. If any are observed, contact the police immediately.
- Install timers to activate and deactivate outside lights.



Interior of Residence

Alarms

- If police respond for an alarm at your residence, please allow them to check the residence, and do not enter the residence until you have been instructed to.
- Make sure all family members are trained in the use of your alarm and keep the code confidential.

General tips

- Have an emergency plan in place for your family in case your residence is targeted by a burglar.
- Close blinds when you're not home and make sure that all valuables are not visible from the windows.
- Report all suspicious salesmen or individuals who contact you at your residence or are seen in your neighborhood.

- If you constantly receive wrong number telephone calls, please report this to the police as criminals might be checking to see if you are home or not.

Security Cameras

- Make sure your cameras are positioned to get a good view of the burglars face, body type, and a view of the driveway to capture a suspect's vehicle.
- Install cameras with a good picture quality so suspect is identifiable.
- Make sure the cameras are out of reach so that it can't be tampered with or damaged by a suspect.
- View camera footage often to ensure that no suspicious activity is taking place. If there is suspicious activity, please call the police right away. The police may request a copy of the video if useful.