

How to Prevent Home Break Ins

Lock the doors - Although this seems obvious, many people still fail to do this. This makes it incredibly easy for a criminal to steal items, without difficulty of getting them out of the home (except some furniture); and without leaving visible evidence of the theft, that a neighbor can see from the outside of the home. Use deadbolts if available.

Close and lock windows - Just locking doors is pointless if you do not close the windows when gone. Use a dowel to place in the window track as an added level of security.

Don't advertise valuables - You do not have to put a list your valuables in the classified for a local newspaper, for a criminal to know what valuables you might have. By placing valuables in plain-sight; such as having valuables in locations that abut a window, especially on the first floor of the home (i.e. large television or computer system directly behind the large front windows of your home.).

Also, just because you don't make it obvious for someone who goes by the home to know what's in it, there are other ways a criminal can determine what valuables you have in your home. Be careful of who is knowledgeable of your valuables. By bragging about your valuables, even to people you believe are not going to be the burglars; you increase your risk of a home invasion. Even if they are completely innocent, they could possibly tell somebody who is not as upstanding. For those who post information of what they own online, you should also be careful.

Park bicycles and vehicles in a garage - If possible, park your bicycles and vehicles in a locked garage. If that garage has windows, be sure to put shades or blinds over them; so criminals cannot see what kind of transportation they can steal.

Put tools away in a locked, secure shed - Never leave ladders, power tools, or other items that can help a criminal enter a home. Ladders allow a criminal to get into the home easily, power-tools such as saws allow the criminal to make their own entry. Bricks or other heavy items can help malicious people or thieves smash windows, also.

Get a safe - if you can fit valuables in a safe, then consider getting one.

Get a house-sitter - If you plan an extended leave have a trusted friend check the property periodically or better yet have them stay at the home during your absence.

Lighting - be sure to leave your porch light on, and have lights in the home on a timer to turn on and off during the evening. It makes the home appear occupied.

Shades- Draw all blinds to make it difficult for a potential criminal to view into your home.

Mail- stop mail and newspaper delivery during extended leaves of absence.

If you have experienced a break in, first call 911 then report to us by calling 360-599-2200.



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