

Crime prevention begins at home

I always lock my doors when I leave my house. What else can I do to prevent a break in?

Make your home appear occupied. Timers are inexpensive and can be effective at fooling thieves. Use them to turn lamps and radios on and off at various times of the day and night in different rooms of the house. Light-sensing timers are good for turning outdoor lights and floodlamps on and off at dusk and dawn. This will make it more difficult for thieves to hide. Use an answering machine or call forwarding, if possible, to quiet ringing phones.

Have a neighbor pick up your mail, newspapers or other deliveries, including fliers and advertisements that are left on doorstep and doorknobs. Arrange to have your lawn mowed, walkways and driveway shoveled and garbage collected. Have a neighbor park a car in your driveway or on your home or even have a neighbor call the police when you'll be away for any length of time.

Also, don't advertise your absence. Leave no message regarding your absence, and don't give such instructions to the neighbor or anyone else. All suspicious activity should be reported to the police. Don't advertise recent purchases, break up cartons and put them in a bag in the trash rather than outside of the can. Refrain from keeping large amounts of cash at home.

If you arrive home and think you've been burglarized, call police from a neighbor's phone. Don't enter your home or touch anything in it before police investigate.

Are some locks better than others?

Dead-bolt locks are recommended for outside doors. Do not use door de-latch locks, which must be unlocked from the inside with a key. Should you have doors having window or glass panes, consider having a window lock installed. If you have a window that is difficult to lock, consider having a window lock installed. If you have a window that is difficult to lock, consider having a window lock installed. If you have a window that is difficult to lock, consider having a window lock installed.

What can I do to prevent a break in when I am home?

Keep valuables out of sight, preferably in a safe or deposit box. Don't display expensive items such as stereos or musical instruments in plain view through windows. Don't advertise recent purchases, break up cartons and put them in a bag in the trash rather than outside of the can. Refrain from keeping large amounts of cash at home.

Keep shrubs and trees trimmed around windows and doors to eliminate hiding places for thieves. Keep doors locked, and never allow a stranger to enter your home. Question him or her; ask for identification. Call utilities (electric, gas, water) to schedule repairs. When someone wants to enter your home to read the meter or do repairs. Teach children to answer the telephone correctly and never to say you are not home. Keep your house locked while you are working in the yard. Lock up sports, gardening, farming equipment and tools.

If you move into a new home or apartment, change the locks as soon as possible.

Participate in your local Neighborhood Watch program, or talk to local police about starting one in your community. Be aware of what goes on in your neighborhood and report anything suspicious to the police. Remember, you'd want your neighbor to do the same thing if your home were being burglarized.

Be sure your home and belongings are properly and adequately insured. Talk to us about homeowners or renters insurance, and about replacement cost coverage for your belongings. We can provide you with the best coverage to meet your needs.



Your Professional Insurance Agent ... We want you to know about the insurance you're buying.

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