

Keeping Your Home Safe From Burglary

Here are a few tips that you can use to help decrease the chances that your home will be burglarized:

- Give your home a lived-in look to deter burglars. Inexpensive timers set to turn on lights in different rooms at different times usually work best.
- Close drapes and shades so that it would be impossible to detect interior motion from the outside, especially in high-traffic areas such as the front room and kitchen.
- Place lamps close to windows to obscure the view into a room.
- Leave a radio on. It signals a burglar that someone is home. Also, turn the volume adjustment on your telephone bell down so a prowler will be less likely to hear the ringing of an unanswered bell.
- Secure windows and doors with secondary locks.
- Get to know your neighbors and let them know when you are going out of town so that they can keep an eye on your home while you are gone.
- Don't open your door to anyone you can't identify or can't verify their identity.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry out in everyday situations - don't advertise. Someone might spot you in a store, mall, etc. and follow you to find out where you live.
- If you notice someone walking around your community wearing a uniform, overalls, or a clipboard, and they (or the uniform) doesn't look familiar, don't hesitate to ask for identification. Many burglars will "research" prospective victims by using this approach knowing that very few people will ever question them.
- Join Neighborhood Watch!