

Burglary Prevention Tips

- **Maintain the appearance of occupancy.** Never let mail and/or newspapers pile up in your mailbox or on your driveway or porch. *Stop delivery or have a friend pick it up.* Do not leave notes indicating your absence. *Leave lights on, put lights on timers, close blinds.*
- When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard. When on vacation, have someone cut grass. Shrubbery should not hide neighbors' view of windows or doors. *Have a friend/neighbor park in your driveway.*
- House numbers should be at least 3" to 5" high, reflective and easily visible from the street. *You should have numbers on both your house and mailbox.*
- Good exterior lighting all around residence perimeter creates a psychological barrier. Consider motion activated light fixtures.
- Trim shrubbery away from windows, doorways and porches. Shrubbery and other barriers provide cover for burglars.
- Exterior doors should be of solid construction with secure frames and locking hardware. Use a deadbolt with at least a 1" to 1-1/2" bolt throw. Treat the door from the garage to inside the house as an exterior door.
- **ALWAYS lock your doors and windows when leaving the house, no matter how long your house will be unattended.** Burglaries have occurred while home owners are in the back yard. Do not leave doors unlocked, especially the front door, if you will be in the back yard for an extended period of time. (Over 1/3 of home burglaries are termed by police as "no force" entries. Doors or windows that are left unlocked allow easy access to the home.)
- **Never hide a key near any doors.** Burglars know to look for them. *Burglars know about the fake rock.*
- **Shut and lock your garage door even when you are home.** Many valuable items, especially bicycles, are located in garages and are easily accessible if the garage door is open.
- An unlocked shed or outbuilding likewise presents an easy target. The burglar can use your own tools to enter your home or take valuables.
- Windows within 12 feet of the ground should be treated as first floor windows. Windows should be working and retro-fit with cost effective locking hardware.
- Install a "Charlie Bar" or commercial locking device for sliding doors. *Or a simple two by four in a sliding window/door can help prevent break-in.*
- **Inventory, photograph and video tape your property. Document brand names, colors, model numbers and serial numbers of all valuable items. Keep receipts in a safe place. Having these numbers allow us as Law Enforcement to enter stolen items into a national database as stolen property. This gives us a much better chance of recovering the stolen property.**
- Install an alarm. Many types of alarms are now available to help foil an attempt to break into your home - from inexpensive tabletop units to professionally installed systems. Some systems sound a bell or siren outside your home to alert the neighbors and scare away the burglar. Others alert a monitoring station. *CPI -954-1532 or Omni Securities 872-0831 (mention Gene Tart, he is an installer that lives in the neighborhood). Systems vary in cost from \$25 and up per month.*
- Burglars know that valuables (jewelry, cash, credit cards, etc.) are kept in bedrooms. Find an unusual place to store (hide) valuables that you do not carry with you on a daily basis.
- Be alert to suspicious behavior in your neighborhood and alert the Raleigh Police Department to this behavior. *Suspicious people, vehicles, abandoned vehicles, should all be reported. If something/someone doesn't seem "right", it's probably not. Don't assume your neighbors have called the police.*
- **IF YOU SHOULD BECOME THE VICTIM OF A BURGLARY, DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING THAT THE SUSPECT MAY HAVE TOUCHED. REQUEST THAT THE RESPONDING OFFICER HAVE YOUR HOUSE PROCESSED FOR FINGERPRINTS.**



There are no guarantees that you will not be the victim of a burglary, however, the more prevention steps you take, the more you minimize your chances of being victimized.