

PROTECT YOUR HOME

Most intruders look for opportunity. Increasing the chance of being caught and reducing what they think may be taken can help deter break-ins.

Strategies to protect your property work better together, therefore by implementing a number of strategies and increasing community participation we decrease the likelihood of being victimized.



Lock it Up!

Lock your doors and windows at all times, even when you are at home.

Secure sliding doors and windows by using snug fitting security bars or a stick along the track.



Light it Up!

Keep the area around your home well lit.

Consider motion sensor lights for areas with low to no light



Tidy it Up!

Trim bushes and trees around your home to increase visibility.

Clean up items around your yard that may be used as tools to gain entry.



The Garage

Keep your garage door closed and locked.

Use blinds or curtains over windows.

Secure tools, bicycles and other valuables.

Park your vehicle in your garage - if you have a garage door opener, do not leave it in your vehicle if parked outside.

Around your Property

- Ensure there is a clear sightline to all entryways from the road; trim trees and have bright lighting. This allows other community members to see suspicious people on your property which increases an intruder's perceived risk.
- Use landscaping to identify your property from public property and that direct visitors to the appropriate entryway.
- Have your address labelled properly and well-lit, this makes it easier for emergency vehicles to see your address. If you have a back alley, mark your address there as well.
- Keep your property in good repair and order. This sends the message that you care about your property and take responsibility for it, this also gives intruders fewer places to hide.

Windows

- If your windows have a locking device, use it. If not, install a pin or use a piece of wood to prevent your window from being slid open.
- Install security bars but make sure they can be easily removed in case of fire. Basement windows are particularly vulnerable to being broken into. Break resistant laminate can also be used to cover windows to enhance security.
- Do not leave windows open when you are not home; an intruder can access even second story windows.
- Close blinds to hide your valuables from plain view when you are not home but keep them open when you are to signal that someone is there.

Doors

- Make sure exterior doors have a solid core.
- Install a lock guard around your door handle/deadbolt
- Deadbolts should have a throw of at least one inch. This is the portion that projects beyond to door and into the frame.
- Screws in the door hinges and strike plate should be at least three inches.

Garage

- If your garage is attached to your home, make sure the entry door from the garage is sturdy and has a deadbolt.
- Make sure the overhead garage door is completely closed before going into your home.
- If your garage is not attached to your home, make sure there is proper lighting around the area.
- Use window coverings to conceal valuable property.
- Do not leave your automatic garage door opener inside your vehicle when parked outside.
- When you go away on vacation, disable your garage door opener.

While on Vacation

- Tell a trusted neighbour or family member when you are going on vacation; have them check your home, take in mail and maintain your yard.
- Use timers on inside lights, TV and radio to make it appear like someone is home.
- Consider getting a house sitter if you will be away for a long period of time.
- Secure or remove valuables while you are away.

Everyday Safety

- If you have an alarm, use it.
- Lock all doors and windows when leaving home for the day or evening.
- Lock your doors and close your garage, even when you are home or in the yard.
- Do not leave your keys, wallet or other valuables in plain sight inside of your house and in areas that can be quickly accessed such as right inside the garage or front entryway.
- Be aware of suspicious individuals in your neighbourhood and be a good witness by noting things about their appearance such as their hair colour and what they are wearing.
- Keep a detailed record of all valuables including their serial numbers.
- Report any suspicious activity or individuals to the police
- Getting to know your neighbours and participating in your community are effective crime prevention strategies.

Engage with your Community

- ✓ Getting to know your neighbours and participating in your community are effective crime prevention strategies.
- ✓ Take care of your property. This signals the community cares, making it less vulnerable to criminal activity.
- ✓ Go for walks and enjoy local green space and parks.



NEIGHBOURHOOD
Empowerment Team