



What Can You Do to Protect Your Neighborhood From Burglary?



“Be aware of your surroundings and use the back of this form to note the incident. It may or may not seem important now, but it’s worth writing down.”

Put Yourself in a Burglar’s Shoes

One thing every homeowner should do, at least twice a year, is take a walk around your property with a close friend or neighbor who is not too familiar with your house. Start outside and ask yourself *“how could I break-in?”* Your friend may spot things you would overlook, then return the favor and complete a walk around of your friend’s house.

Protecting Your Home

- ◆ KEEP YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS LOCKED! Don’t give a thief an opportunity to make you a victim!
 - ◆ Install deadbolt locks and make sure ALL your doors and door jambs are strong enough to withstand a strong kick. Reinforce if needed.
 - ◆ Install storm or security doors on both front and back doors and keep them locked.
 - ◆ Sliding glass doors can be lifted up and out easily. Security locks can be installed that run a heavy pin through the door track and into the frame which acts much like a deadbolt.
 - ◆ Windows can be secured by installing a small eyebolt in any corner. Security shutters or grates work well but can prevent people from using the window for a fire escape. Newer models can easily be pushed

open from inside to lessen their danger in an emergency.

- ◆ With automatic garage door openers, be sure to change the security code from the pre-installed settings. Always lock your car so thieves don’t have easy access to your door opener.
- ◆ Motion sensor lights can be easily installed to illuminate any dark areas around your home. Use them near doors, windows, anywhere a burglar could hide.

Protecting Your Valuables

- ◆ Document anything you have that has value. Write down all the serial numbers on electronics such as computers, cameras, MP3 players etc. Make two copies -- keep one in a safe deposit box. Send one to your insurance agent (most keep this information in your file for you).
- ◆ Keep pictures and detailed descriptions of your items such as jewelry, heirlooms, collections, etc. off-site. If you have a video camera, make a tape of your valuables and keep it in a safe deposit box or somewhere off-site.
- ◆ A personal safe is a great way to keep irreplaceable items in your house secure. Just be sure the safe is high quality, fire resistant and bolted to the floor or securely fastened and cannot be pushed, pulled or carried out by a thief.

What to Do If You Have Been Burglarized

◆ DO NOT ENTER, but go to another location and call the police. Let the police search the property to ensure the suspect is gone.

◆ Upon entering your home, do not touch things unnecessarily as you may destroy fingerprints and other evidence.

◆ Inform the police of anything that has been moved so that it can be checked for prints.

◆ Notify the police if you find anything that is not yours that may have been left behind by the burglar such as tools, clothing, etc. (burglars have dropped driver's licenses before!)

◆ Be prepared to provide the police with serial numbers and a complete description of all missing property. Tell the police if you have engraved any of the items with your driver's license or other personalized number.

Many burglaries are witnessed but the witnesses don't realize it.

Good Burglar Deterrents

◆ Good communication with neighbors is a great deterrent. Look out for each other and call police if anything looks suspicious. Police don't know what is normal for your neighborhood but you do! Keep us posted.

◆ A dog is one of the best deterrents because a noisy dog will create a disturbance and get attention the last thing a burglar wants!

◆ Make sure you can see your front door from the street and keep shrubs cut down near windows so there are less hiding places for burglars.

◆ Don't advertise that you are not home. Having a stack of newspapers in your driveway, no garbage cans out collection day, or an empty can sitting at the curb is advertising.

◆ Think about your habits. If your phone rings consistently and can be heard outside, there are no lights on in the house or if you always close the drapes ONLY when you're not home you are sending a clear message to thieves.

◆ If you have an alarm system USE IT! They are very effective, but often home owners don't turn them on which defeats their purpose.

Report Anything Suspicious 785-4629

Color of Vehicle

Make & Model

License Plate

Male

Female

Color Shirt

Color Pants

Height

Weight

Other Descriptors

**Sheriff Michael Haley
Washoe County Sheriff's
Office**

**911 Parr Blvd.
Reno, NV 89512**

Phone: 775-328-3001

www.washoesherriff.com