



## HOW CAN I DISCOURAGE BURGLARS???



### HOW DO BURGLARS OPERATE?

Today's burglar is oftentimes brazen - operating openly, and not dressed in dark clothes or with the furtive actions of the so called "cat burglar." Burglars may drive a truck and dress as a service repairperson. Burglars might knock at your door, using various pretenses, to appraise the house for valuable items and to learn when you are home. Burglars often cruise neighborhoods to look for absentee owners or such tell-tale signs as newspapers, which have not been removed, from the front of the house. Another favorite trick is the wrong number telephone call to find out if the owner is at home before attempting to enter a residence. Quick thefts of purses or other valuables are commonly carried out by burglars who enter an opposite door when the homeowner is seen working outside in their yard.

### KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

One of the most important ways of protecting your home is to know your neighbors. Make them fully aware of your family's living habits – who comes and goes to your house and when. Get to know theirs equally well. When you are familiar with regular visitors, strangers in the neighborhood are easy to spot. If you should notice a stranger who appears to be doing something suspicious, call the police immediately!



### WHEN YOU ARE AWAY

The home with a "lived in" or "at home" look is a deterrent to burglars. Follow these simple rules, even when you're leaving the house for "just a couple minutes."

- Lock all outside doors and windows
- At night, leave one or more lights on in locations not visible from windows. For extended absences, there are inexpensive plug-in timers that will turn lights on and
- Leave a radio playing, preferably tuned to a talk show with the volume low. This



- create the impression of a conversation
  - Do not leave notes indicating your absence
  - Shut and lock the garage door
  - Do not leave extra keys in such obvious places as a mailbox or under a flowerpot
  - Keep a list of serial numbers on all property such as televisions, radios, guns, stereos, etc.
  - Photograph valuables for complete protection
  - An excellent safeguard is to pick a secure closet, and install a heavy duty deadbolt on the door, using it as a "safe" room for jewelry and other valuables
  - Replace older locks with good deadbolt locks with a 1" throw



### WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME

Take care to guard against intruders when you are in the house as well. Your personal safety is also at stake!

- Keep outside doors locked
- Never admit strangers under any pretext
- Have the caller identify him/herself
- Report any solicitor or salespersons without proper credentials to the police
- Do not keep valuables out in the open

If a burglar enters your home at night, call the police quietly on the phone if possible and remain calm. Try to stay on the phone until the police arrive.

#### WHEN YOU ARE ON VACATION

Other than a little planning ahead, vacation safety rules for home protection are basically the same as every day precautions. Add the following and enjoy a worry free trip.



- Have newspaper and other delivery services discontinued during your absence
- Arrange for lawn care and removal of circuars (and snow during winter months)
- Have the Post Office hold or forward your mail, or have a neighbor collect it daily
- Ask a neighbor to check your home periodically to be sure your light timer is working and to vary lights and position of drapes
- Do not publicize vacations ahead – especially on social networking sites! May thieves watch for accounts of vacationers



If you return from a trip and observe obvious signs of a burglary, **DO NOT ENTER YOUR HOME!** Call the police from a neighbor's house and wait until the police arrive and check your home.

The police department is always on call, ready to serve you where needed, when needed. Call them if you see, hear, or suspect a crime is being committed, or believe a crime will be committed in the future. Call a police officer and tell him/her about it. This is the request of virtually every law enforcement officer in this nation. Police are more interested in preventing crime than anything else. Busy as they are, any law enforcement agency will gladly take the time to make a check of your home. While you can't expect them to invest a lot of time, they will point out any serious flaws.