

Residential Burglary Prevention Tips

The recent increase of thefts has prompted the Franklin Police Department to issue the following tips to assist citizens from becoming the victim of property theft. Chief Hannah encourages everyone to follow these tips and advises that one of the best protections is from the watchful eye of a neighbor. He encourages everyone to actively use alarm systems and businesses to equip themselves with video recording devices.

The facts about burglary...

- Over 6,000 residential burglaries occur each day in this country. That's one every 11 seconds!
- Nearly half of these burglaries are committed without force; that is through unlocked doors and windows.
- Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. Good locks and good neighbors who watch out for each other can be your best protection .

Many of these burglaries could be prevented...

- Always lock your doors and windows, even when leaving for "just a minute".
- Never leave a house key available; under a doormat, in a flowerpot, on the ledge of the door. These are the first places a burglar will look.

Check your Locks

- Exterior doors should have "dead bolt" locks with a 1" strong metal bar extending into the door frame.
- Sliding doors and windows should all have standard locks as well as auxiliary locks to increase security.
- Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio or other doors that lead out through storage areas or spare rooms.

Before You Leave Your Residence

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use timers so that lights, radio, and television go on and off throughout the house to indicate someone is home.
- For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and the newspaper delivery or have a neighbor collect them daily.
- Notify police when going on vacation or away from home for extended periods, so that residential check can be conducted.
- In short, make your home look "lived in".

Remember, if you come home and see a broken window or jimmied door, don't go in and immediately contact the police. Allow law enforcement officers to secure the residence and wait for their approval before entering.

Property Identification

- Mark your valuables with an engraving tool, using numbers and/or letters that can be used to identify your valuables in case they are stolen.
- Store these numbers in a safe location where they cannot be obtained by a burglar.
- Burglars don't want marked merchandise because it is difficult to fence and evidence of guilt if they are caught.
- Mark your items as conspicuously as possible without defacing them. If possible place a second identifying mark in an inconspicuous location.
- Photograph and catalog those items that cannot be engraved (jewelry, silverware, antiques).

A Good Neighbor

Law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once, but you and your neighbors can. You're the ones who really know what's going on in the neighborhood. Put that neighborhood know-how to work. It's simple:

- Just use your eyes and ears - and then your telephone. If you spot something suspicious, call the police immediately.
- Don't try to stop a criminal yourself; it can be dangerous.

Neighbors working together in cooperation with law enforcement make one of the best crime fighting teams.