

CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Richard Eddington, Chief of Police
1454 Elmwood Ave., Evanston, Illinois 60201
911/EMERGENCY
847-866-5000/NON-EMERGENCY
311/Request City Services or Information
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/>



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION



Residential burglaries literally hit close to home. There's no greater violation than to have one's home, and one's privacy, invaded by an intruder. Most burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home and most entries occur during daylight hours after residents are presumably gone off to work and/or school. Good home security and good neighbors who watch out for each other are the most effective deterrents to burglars. A burglary is often a crime of opportunity. The offenders generally look for an easy target, so making their job more difficult, or more risky, reduces the appeal to most criminals. Burglars will most often try for unlocked windows and doors as a means of entry. If you have windows and doors that create a challenge to criminals, they may move on to something easier.

TO PREVENT & REDUCE THE THREAT OF FALLING VICTIM OF THIS CRIME, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:

- THE NUMBER ONE PREVENTION TIP IS TO MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK "LIVED IN." NEVER LET ITEMS PILE UP IN THE MAILBOX OR ON THE PORCH. IT SENDS THE MESSAGE THAT NO ONE IS HOME OR WATCHING THE RESIDENCE.
- ARRANGE WITH A TRUSTED NEIGHBOR TO PICK UP YOUR MAIL, NEWSPAPERS, GARBAGE CANS, AND TO MAINTAIN YARD WORK IF NEEDED. AFTER ALL, THEY LIVE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD & KNOW WHAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS IN THE AREA.
- DO NOT STOP THE MAIL OR PAPER DELIVERY. YOU NEVER KNOW WHO IS TAKING THE CALL ON THE OTHER END.
- SET AUTOMATIC TIMERS FOR INTERIOR & EXTERIOR LIGHTS, RADIO AND T.V.'S. TURN THE RINGER DOWN ON THE PHONE. NOTE: A RINGING PHONE ALERTS OTHERS THAT NO ONE IS HOME
- LEAVE YOUR WINDOW SHADES IN "NORMAL" POSITION, OR HAVE YOUR "HOUSE-WATCHER" MOVE THE WINDOW SHADE POSITIONING THROUGHOUT YOUR VACATION. DO NOT CLOSE THE BLINDS.
- LOCK YOUR VALUABLES IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX OR FIRE SAFE. DOCUMENT ALL VALUABLES VIA VIDEO TAPE AND PLACE THIS & IMPORTANT SERIAL NUMBERS IN SAFE DEPOSIT BOX ALSO.
- NOTIFY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND REQUEST A SPECIAL WATCH OR VACATION WATCH. LET POLICE KNOW WHICH VEHICLES BELONG AT THE RESIDENCE.
- LOCK ALL LADDERS, LAWN SUPPLIES, ETC. IN THE SHED OR GARAGE
- TAKE YOUR GARAGE DOOR OPENERS OUT OF YOUR VEHICLES. REMOVE IMPORTANT PAPERS & DOCUMENTS WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THEM. HAVE VEHICLES MOVED ON OCCASION, SO AS TO NOT BE PARKED IN ONE SPOT ALL THE TIME.
- MAKE SURE YOUR BURGLAR & FIRE ALARMS ARE IN WORKING ORDER. TEST THEM WITH THE ALARM COMPANY. MAKE SURE YOUR ALARM COMPANY HAS AN UPDATED CALL LIST.
- SECURE YOUR WINDOWS BY "PINNING THEM" & PLACE A SECURITY BAR IN THE TRACK OF YOUR SLIDING GLASS DOORS.
- LEAVE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE POLICE OR A TRUSTED NEIGHBOR.
- CONSIDER FORMING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM. IF INTERESTED CONTACT CRIME PREVENTION 847-866-5019
- IF YOU SEE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON TRYING DOOR HANDLES OR LOOKING INTO VEHICLES, CALL 911 OR THE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 847-866-5000.