Burglary and Car Prowl Prevention Things You Can Do

Basic Things to Do

1. Lock doors and windows. Get the whole family on board to do this.
2. Make your house look occupied. Leave a light on when you are away. Leave a radio on.
3. Tell a neighbor when you will be away over night; have them remove newspapers and packages left on the front porch. Put lights on a timer so they come on and off the normal times.

Then Strengthen your Home’s Security

Before you make security improvements, identify those entry points most likely to be used by a burglar. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- Which entrances are hidden/out of view from my neighbors?
- If I am locked out of my house, where could I get in without too much difficulty? Every door/window you list in response to these questions should be a number one priority. Your goal is to make it difficult for a burglar by forcing them to take more time and to make more noise!
- Exterior doors should be strong enough to withstand excessive force: solid core wood, metal or other reinforced doors, reinforced door jams or jam braces.
- All exterior doors should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw.
- Strike plates and frames for exterior doors should be anchored to the home's main construction with three-inch screws, heavy-duty strike plates and tamper proof hinges.
- Exterior doors should fit snugly against the frame.
- The main entrance door should have a door-wide-angle (180 degree) viewer/peephole.
- Sliding glass doors and windows should be secure against forcing the locks or from being lifted completely out of the frame.
- High-risk windows (basement, garage, ground-level, partially or totally secluded) should be secured sufficiently enough to discourage or impede possible intrusion. Double-hung windows should be secured with pins or extra locks to discourage prying.
- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to allow visibility along the perimeter and entries) of the house.
- All entrances (doors and windows) to your home should be well lit at night.
- Install motion sensor lighting, specifically directed and focused on entry points and vulnerable areas; be careful not to “light trespass” on your neighbors though.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm.

Things to do to Prevent Car Prowls

- Before leaving your parked car, always remove the keys, roll up the windows and lock the car.
- Leave nothing visible in your car that might be stolen.
- If your car is stored in a carport or parked near your house, leave your exterior lights on throughout the night.
- If you park on the street, choose a well-lit, open space even if it means adding additional street/yard lighting & trimming back trees and bushes that block your view of your vehicle.
- Consider replacing the light fixture closest to your car with a motion detector unit. Motion detectors are good psychological deterrents since the normal assumption of a person seeing a light come on is that someone has seen them. Additionally, the light makes the prowler or thief more visible.