

Protect Your Home, Vehicle, and Belongings from Burglary

Tips from New Orleans Police Department

Protect Your Home From Being Burglarized

- When leaving your residence, make certain the doors and windows are locked. Many people forget this very simple action!
- Examine the foliage around your home. Consider cutting back any shrubbery or tree limbs that may obstruct the view from the street or any that may offer a hiding place or any that may be used as an avenue into a window. You should be able to easily see the street and anyone passing on the sidewalk in front of your home.
- Make agreements with your neighbors to watch out for each others homes.
- Let a neighbor know when you are going to be away from home, even if you are just going for a night out.
- Report any suspicious persons whom may be hanging around in the area.
- **Asses your outside lighting situation. The better lighting you have the less likely a criminal will target your home.**
- Always communicate with your neighbors.
- Do not hesitate to call the police if you see what you think is suspicious activity. **You are not wasting our time.**
- You should NEVER advertise a new purchase by placing the box or carton it came in out for garbage pick up. This is as good as an invitation to thieves to break into your home and help themselves. If you have a large purchase being delivered, ask that the delivery persons remove the carton or box it was delivered in. For smaller purchases, which you carried out of the store, try to break the carton or box into smaller pieces then place them in dark garbage bags.

Protect Your Vehicle From Being Burglarized

I have learned from speaking with many of you that some of you have been convinced that leaving your cars or trucks unlocked is a good idea. This is untrue. Most car burglars will not draw attention to themselves by smashing a window. They generally pick their targets by simply pulling on the door handle to see if it opens. If not, they usually move on to something easier. (Door left unlocked) With that said, please keep in mind, in addition to locking your car doors you must not leave valuable items in plain sight (**lap tops, GPS, guns, purses, cameras, cash, shopping bags, etc**). Seeing these items will make a thief take a chance on smashing the window. While no system is foolproof, employing these steps should reduce your chances of being victimized.

Protect Your Property by Keeping a List of Serial Numbers

It is unfortunate we have to experience crimes in our neighborhoods however it does happen. The police work diligently to protect your property and to solve crimes as fast as possible when they do occur. In the event you do fall victim to a crime or a burglary it would be helpful to the police to have serial numbers, vehicle identification numbers and etc. available. We are recommending each of you put together an inventory of your home documenting serial numbers on televisions, DVD machines, etc. Store this information in a safe place so in the event it is needed it can be accessed. This will help speed up any investigations if the need arises.