

Crime Prevention At Home

Lock your doors and windows when leaving your residence. Most residential burglaries occur during the daytime.

Know who is at your door before opening it. Screen doors and chain locks provide false security.

Obtain identification. If they show you an ID for a service company (i.e. Cable, phone, etc.) call their employer and verify who they are and why they are at your door. Consider installing peepholes in all entryway doors.

Mark your property with your Driver License number, that way it can be traced ONLY to you if it is stolen. (You can borrow an engraver from any one of our precincts!)

- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places - burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home -- this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately.

Call the Dresden Police Department for crime prevention advice and for a free home or business security survey. The Crime Prevention Unit can be reached at (731) 364-2255.

- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number with an engraver you can borrow from any of our precincts. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.

lights, locks and the law!

Remember the three L's of Crime Prevention: **LIGHTS, LOCKS & the LAW!**

Light up your residence, lock your doors at all times, and call the Law when you see something suspicious

alarmed?

Prior to installing home-security devices - think fire safety first. Would the device prevent you from getting out of your home? Do you have pet doors? They provide entry for pets, but they may also provide entry for criminals.

Privacy fences give you privacy, but they also give the criminal concealment from outside view. Secure your garage door, even when you are at home. Burglaries and thefts take minutes

or even seconds to commit.

DON'T open your door until you know who is there. When you are not home, leave lamps on timers and consider leaving a radio or television on.

Consider leaving porch lights on at night. LIGHTING is one of the most INEXPENSIVE crime deterrents.

Secure your keys and keep them out of view. NEVER place identification tags on your key rings. Treat your garage door opener like your keys.

NEVER leave your garage door opener inside a vehicle which is parked outside. Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed for better visibility.

Keep windows clear and free of shrubbery and debris. Overgrowth may provide hiding places for criminals.

on vacation?

When leaving town, have a trusted friend or neighbor take care of your home. NEVER cancel general deliveries such as mail, milk, newspapers and other services when leaving town or going on vacation. But don't let those newspaper deliveries pile up either.

If you will be away for an extended period arrange to have a neighbor cut your lawn. If you can, also have them move your car in the driveway so it appears you are still coming and going as usual.

And NEVER leave your porch light on ONLY when you go on vacation. This tells a thief come on in...we are on vacation!

are you involved?

Know your neighbors. Consider forming a Neighborhood Watch Group in your neighborhood..

Contact the police department for more information.

out of town?

Remove your keys and lock your doors when leaving your vehicle. It only takes seconds to steal a locked car without the keys - why make it easier for a thief by leaving the keys in the car? And NEVER leave extra keys inside the vehicle or under the hood.

Secure your valuables in your trunk or take them with you. Don't create temptation by leaving

valuables within view inside your vehicle.

When returning to your vehicle at night, be aware of your surroundings. Look underneath and inside your vehicle before entering.