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Safety Tips from the Nassau County Police Department



Burglary Prevention

- If you have an alarm, be sure to set it. Consider installing an alarm system, if you don't have one.
- Gifts and valuables should be kept out of sight, away from windows.
- Do not publicize that you will be out of town on the internet.
- Leave your lights on when you leave the house.
- Lock all doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home if you'll be away.

Thefts from Vehicles

- Park in well-lit areas.
- LOCK YOUR VEHICLE and do not leave it running unattended.
- Do not leave a GPS or any other valuables visible in the vehicle. Hide packages and shopping bags in the trunk.
- Keep keys in your hand when walking to your car or home.

Shopping Tips

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at ALL times.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Be sure your purse or wallet is secured at all times.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

Shopping Online

- Shop only on secure websites.
- Do not respond to emails asking you for personal or credit card information.
- Check your credit card and bank statements regularly.

Take Inventory

- Make time to update or create a home inventory.
- Take photos or make a video of valuable items with descriptions and serial numbers.

Be Alert! If you see something, say something!

Call 911 for emergencies or crimes in progress

Crime Stoppers 1-800-244-TIPS

Burglary Prevention Checklist

Secure the outside of your home.

- Lock doors and windows when leaving the house.
- Lock rear gates when not in use.
- Do not let people know you are not home by posting on the Internet or on voicemail.
- Prune overgrown shrubbery that hides windows and doors.
- Make alarm stickers visible on doors and windows; they should be easily seen from the street and sidewalk.
- Keep a car in the driveway, if possible.
- Give the appearance that you own a guard dog. Place a big dog bowl or dog chain on your property.
- Do not leave packages in the doorway all day. Arrange for a delivery time when you or a neighbor can pick them up.
- Do not leave garbage cans at the curb all day. If you cannot stay home, use plastic bags instead of garbage cans.

Help prevent your home from becoming a target.
H Walk around your home and do a thorough security inspection.

Burglary Prevention Checklist (cont'd)

Secure points of entry into your home.

- If possible, do not use an outside mailbox. Insert a mail slot in the front door or garage.
- Install outside motion detection lights at the corners of your home. Make sure they are high enough so that an intruder is unable to unscrew the bulbs.
- Do not have a front door with side glass panels. It is easy for an intruder to break the glass, reach inside and unlock the door.
- Have outside doors of solid core or metal clad; steel doors and frames are the most secure while hollow doors with wood frames are easily kicked in.
- Use dead bolts with a one-inch throw since the mechanism is difficult to pry or jimmy open.
- Ensure that sliding glass doors and windows have metal pins or a metal bar installed so that they can not be pried open.
- Set inside lights on timers to turn on at dusk.
- Do not place valuables in bureau drawers in the master bedroom. This is the first place a burglar looks. Lock valuables in the attic or basement.
- Mark valuables with your driver's license number to make them easy to trace. Take pictures of them.
- Even if you have an alarm system, be alert when entering or leaving your home. If you notice someone or something suspicious, call 911 immediately.

Residential Burglary Prevention Checklist- 3rd Precinct NCPD

- Reset automatic light timers this weekend! A dark house is an unoccupied house. A house with no light on at dinner time tells burglars that you are not at home.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed. Thick, tall shrubbery provides cover for a burglar to work undetected.
- If you have an alarm system, put up signs that say you do. Do not use signs that hint at what type of equipment your system uses. Have your alarm serviced by a reputable technician.
- USE YOUR ALARM
- Never leave a house key in such obvious places as a mailbox or under a doormat.
- Make sure the exterior of your house is well-lit. Exterior lights are important — especially near doors or in the rear of the house, where burglars do most of their work.
- Close and lock your windows. Most burglars won't attempt to break a secured window for fear of attracting attention.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked. This helps prevent access to the house and protects property stored in the garage.
- Secure any sliding doors. Make sure the lock is in working order. A steel rod in the door channel is helpful. For additional security, install two or three screws in the overhead track to reduce the chance of the door being lifted out of the track.
- Never open the door before you identify who is on the other side. Utility workers and Government employees will always be glad to present identification; in fact most of them will already be displaying it. Call 911 if you are unsure. Legitimate workers will wait for Police to arrive.
- Have a wide-angle door viewer (peephole) installed, so that you know who it is at the door before you open.
- Be wary of "wrong" numbers and teach children what to say to strangers on the phone.
- Be careful with your keys. Put your house and car keys on separate key rings, and don't put identification tags on keys.
- Do not leave all your valuables in your bedroom. Burglars always check bedrooms first.
- Make an itemized list of everything you own. Include brand name, model number, serial number, where and when purchased, and the items' purchase price or estimated value. Attach receipts if you have them. Take photographs or videotape everything, and keep them in a safe place.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up all mail, newspapers and deliveries daily. Do not allow these items to accumulate. Ask this same neighbor to park in your driveway while you are gone.
- Don't let empty garbage pails sit curbside after trash collection days.
- Don't publicize your vacation ahead of time. Many burglars read local papers for accounts of vacationers.
- Offer to help a neighbor with any of the above. Be a good neighbor. Watch out for each other.
- Notify the Police of any unusual or suspicious circumstances. USE 911. Residents and Police are partners in solving these crimes; we welcome the information provided by the communities we serve.
- Write down plate numbers and descriptions of vehicles. Make note of distinguishing features of vehicle (body damage, mismatched paint, lettering, vanity plates, out of state plates, roof racks, tinted windows, items hanging from rear view mirror, stickers on car, etc...)
- Remember clothing descriptions of individuals.