



Home Security

Building Safe Neighbourhoods

According to the **Crime Trends Report 2004**, property crimes (includes break and enters, vehicle theft, and theft from vehicles) represented **54%** of Criminal Code offences reported to police. Police alone cannot effectively combat property crime. This community problem needs the community to act together for a solution. A contributing factor to criminal activity in our community is the loss of neighbourhood cohesiveness. The connection between residents and their community needs to be re-established.

Block Watch Program

The Block Watch Program addresses the need for neighbourhood cohesiveness, and is a combination of home security, property marking, and neighbourhood awareness. Block Watch members are informed of the types of crime(s) in their area, are supplied with information to improve their home security, and create a communication network with each other and with partners, such as the police. Individuals are encouraged to work together to secure their homes and neighbourhoods. Overall, the Block Watch Program promotes a positive, supportive relationship between citizens and their police.

Block Watch has been proven an effective deterrent to property crime in over 40 communities across British Columbia. The Block Watch Society of B.C. would like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers who have initiated the program in their community, making their neighbourhood a safer place to live and work. The Block Watch Society would also like to encourage British Columbians to Celebrate Crime Prevention Week 2005 by becoming a Block Watch neighbourhood!



Block Watch®

Building Neighbourhoods is a Community Effort

- Get to know your neighbours and their habits. Good neighbours will look out for each other. Report any suspicious people or activities to police.
- Become involved in Block Watch or Crime Free Multi-Housing, to prevent crime and nuisance activity, and build awareness around safe communities.
- Apartment and condominium residents are encouraged to become actively involved with their resident or strata councils. Be a proactive resident.
- Conduct a safety audit with your neighbours to provide feedback on each others' homes, making them a safer place to live.



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Ministry of Public Safety
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The following is a list of Home Security and Safety tips. This should not be considered a complete list. For further information, see additional resources below:

Make your home a hard target for thieves!

- Don't be complacent about your home security- it may need updating!
- Exterior doors should be at least 1 ¾ inches thick with a solid core
- Door frame structure should be sound to allow proper fastening of door and hardware
- Use 3 inch screws to fasten hinges and striker plates into door framing
- Use a good quality brand name dead bolt with a 1" to 1 ½" throw, to extend well into the striker plate. Do not rely on night chains
- Install a wide angle, 180 degree door viewer
- Ensure sliding glass windows and doors cannot be lifted in their frames... Install anti-lift devices or shims
- Secure windows and sliding doors with good key-less auxiliary locks



Tips for Safe Apartment Living

- Do not place your salutation (Mr., Mrs., Miss.) or your first name on the building intercom panel or mailbox.
- Avoid entrapment areas of your building. Request that windows be installed on doors leading to stairwells, parking lot, and common areas.
- Remove labels from common areas, such as **“Storage,” “Laundry Room,”** and **“Office.”**
- Do not store valuable items in storage lockers.
- When entering and leaving the underground parking, ensure that gate doors close behind you.
- Report malfunctioning doors or lights to your resident manager.

Be prepared, no matter how secure your residence is...

- Never store valuables in one location. The bedroom is often where thieves look first for valuables.
- Store valuables in a safety deposit box.
- Record serial numbers of appliances and electronics. Borrow an engraver from your local community police station to mark these valuables with your Province and Driver's License # – especially your **garden and woodworking tools** which are highly sought after by thieves!
- Take photographs of your valued possessions.
- If a stranger asks to use your phone, place the call for them. Never let them into your home.
- Close your curtains at night.

For more information on home security and building neighbourhoods:

- Block Watch Society of B.C. – 1-877-602-3358 or www.blockwatch.com
- BC Crime Prevention Association – 1-888-405-2288 or www.bccpa.org
- Your local crime prevention or policing unit – see your local telephone directory
- Crime Free Multi-Housing Program – 1-888-405-2288 or www.bccpa.org



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