



Home Security

➤ I The three most common ways in which a break and enter happens are:

- Most break and enters are the result of easy opportunities
 - through a basement window
 - forcing open a door or window, and
 - simply entering through unlocked doors and windows using no force.



Make your home a “hard target” to deter thieves:

- Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat, in a flowerpot, or behind a loose brick.
- Make sure that both your front and back doors are made of solid wood or metal.
- Trim trees and shrubs so doors and windows are visible from the street.
- Keep tools and ladders stored in a locked shed or in the garage, to prevent use by thieves.



Doors and windows provide thieves the most accessible entry points into a home:

- Get into the habit of keeping your doors and windows locked, even when you are at home.
- Equip all exterior doors with wide-angle, 180 degree, door-viewers (peepholes). These let you see who is at your door before you open it.
- Install dead-bolt locks with a minimum of a 1-inch throw on all exterior doors. Don't rely on night-chains
- Reinforce windows and sliding glass doors by installing anti-lift devices, security film, pins, or auxiliary locks.



Lighting – Thieves don't like to be seen:

- Leave your outside lights on at night.
- Install motion sensors or timers on exterior lights.
- All entranceways and window area should be well lit.
- Mount lights out of reach so they cannot be tampered with. Place security cages over exterior light to ensure they cannot be turned off or broken.



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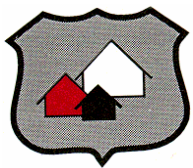
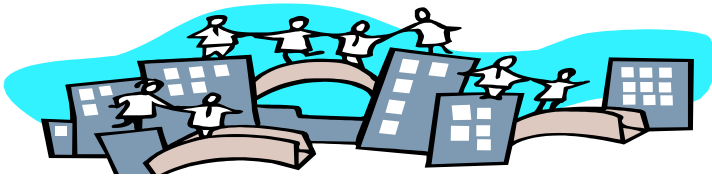
Who's there?

Keeping yourself safe at home:

- Before you open the door to a stranger, verify who is there by using a peephole or verbally confirming the identity of the individual
- Be suspicious of an unexpected salesperson or repair company – they could be a potential burglar checking your possessions and security measures.
- Always ask for identification, and if needed call the company to confirm the identity of the individual.
- Trust your instincts. If you don't feel comfortable opening the door for a particular person – don't.
- If in an apartment building, do not let unknown individuals into your building.

Be prepared, regardless of how secure your home or apartment is:

- Keep seldom-used valuables and documents in a safety deposit box.
- Don't store valuables all in one place, particularly in the bedroom, as this is the first place thieves will look.
- Record the serial numbers of all appliances and electronics. Borrow an engraver from your local crime prevention office to mark these items with your driver's licence number and province.
- Photograph your possessions and keep these photos in a safe place. Photos may be helpful for use in the recovery of these items should they be stolen or lost.



Crime Prevention is a Community Effort

By working together, neighbours can increase the safety and security of their homes and neighbourhoods.

- Get to know your neighbours, their habits and schedules. Good neighbours will often look out for one another.
- Become involved in **Block Watch**, **Crime Free Multi-Housing** or other community crime prevention programs
- Apartment and condominium residents are encouraged to become actively involved with their resident or strata councils. Be proactive in your multi-housing community.
- Report any suspicious activity or person in your neighbourhood or housing complex to the police immediately.

For More Information on Home Security and Safety, please contact:

- Your local crime prevention or community policing unit – see your local telephone directory for phone numbers for your local police department
- Block Watch Society of British Columbia – 1-877-607-3358 or www.blockwatch.com
- BC Crime Prevention Association – 604-529-1552 or www.bccpa.org
- Crime Free Multi-Housing: 604-529-1552 or www.bccpa.org



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