

Home Security Checklist

Complete this security checklist to find out if your home may be vulnerable to thieves. This survey can also help you evaluate the security risks of a home you plan to purchase or rent.

EXTERIORS

- Shrubs are cut below window level.
- Tree limbs are cut above window level.
- Residence number is visible from the street, and at night.
- All entrances to the house and garage are well lit.
- Bicycles, lawn mowers, ladders, etc. are kept inside.
- You know your neighbours and watch out for each other's property, or you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch program.

DOORS

- Doors have 180° peepholes.
- Inside locks are at least one metre from glass.
- Exterior doors are solid-core.
- Exterior doors have 2.5 cm deadbolts.
- Door jambs are securely fastened.
- Strike plates and hinges are secured with 7.5 cm (3") screws.
- Deadbolts extend sufficiently into strike plates.
- Locks have been changed or re-keyed since you moved in.

WINDOWS

- Windows are secure (pinned or with back-up locks).
- Metal windows and basement windows have back-up locks.
- Curtains cover windows completely.

GARAGE

- Garage door closes tightly.
- Overhead garage door has quality lock.
- Doors are locked and closed when not in use.
- Remote garage door opener is customized for your garage door.
- Keys are removed from vehicle while it's in the garage.
- Garage light can be turned on from inside the house.

We all have a role to play in preventing crime in our neighbourhoods.

Get to know your neighbours and get involved in Neighbourhood Watch.

Committed to building a safer community together.



Going Away?

Protect your home and belongings when you're not there.

- Tell only those people who need to know that you are going away.
- Have a trusted person house-sit for you, or hire a reliable house-sitting service.
- Cancel home deliveries of milk and newspapers and do not leave notes for others. Have the post office hold or forward your mail and ask a neighbour to collect junk mail.
- Arrange for someone to perform lawn and garden maintenance so your home will look lived in.
- Have a neighbour arrange drapes and blinds occasionally.
- Purchase timers for radios, TVs and exterior and interior lights.
- Turn down the telephone ringer; an unanswered phone usually indicates an empty house.
- Do not leave a message on your machine telling callers you are away.
- Ask your neighbours to inform the police immediately if they notice anything unusual or suspicious around your home. They should record the licence plates of questionable vehicles.
- Have a record of the serial numbers of missing items. Anything without a serial number should be marked with your driver's licence number. This increases your chances of having missing property returned to you.

Before you leave:

- Lock all tools, barbecues and ladders out of sight.
- Set and test all timing devices.
- Lock and check all doors and windows.
- Disconnect the garage door opener.

If a break-in has occurred during your absence:

- Do not enter the house in case the intruder is still there. Use a neighbour's phone to call the police immediately!
- Do not touch anything. Wait for the police to arrive.

Make the right call!

To report a crime:

Red Deer City RCMP Complaint Line	343-5575
Emergencies	911
Victim Services	341-2041
Crime Stoppers	340-8477 (TIPS)
Web site	www.tipsubmit.com



This publication is part of The City of Red Deer Crime Prevention and Policing Strategy.



Don't be a Target

Thieves and vandals are attracted to easy targets.
Are you doing what you can to protect your family, your home and your property?

Protect your investment

Proper security in your home can not only protect your property from crime and vandalism, it also creates a safe environment for you and your family.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts, in addition to traditional security measures such as locks and lighting, can increase safety and security for your home.

Committed to building a safer community together.



Exteriors

You can incorporate simple, inexpensive landscaping and design concepts to improve security in your home.

- Shrubs and trees shouldn't create blind spots or hiding places.
- Walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the proper entrance and away from private areas.
- Exterior doors should be visible from the street or by neighbours.
- Sidewalks, doorways and all areas of the yard should be well lit.

Ensure your residence number is highly visible from the street by putting light numbers on a dark background, or the reverse, and selecting numbers at least six inches tall, and light them at night.

Locks

A good lock is very important. The popular key-in-the-knob locks are not very effective. Consider installing a 2.5 cm deadbolt lock on all of your exterior doors, including doors that attach your garage to your house.

Patio doors are also popular targets for burglars and thieves, as many of them can be lifted out of their tracks and removed. To prevent this, install metal screws in the door's upper track. The screws will fill the space above the door, preventing it from clearing the lower track. Patio doors can also be pinned like windows or locked with a commercial lock.

Windows

Windows pose a threat to home security. Install high-quality back-up locks on all of your windows if they can be pried open easily. There are several types of commercial window locks available to homeowners; ask a reputable home security supplier which lock is suitable for your needs.

Another reinforcement method is "pinning." Drill a 0.5 cm hole through the inside window frame and into the outside frame. Secure the window by placing a commercial pin or a large nail through the hole. Double-hung windows and sliding aluminum windows can also be pinned.

Basement windows are a common entry point for thieves. Windows hidden by bushes or trees give intruders an ideal place to work. Try replacing basement windows with a tough, clear, unbreakable plastic that's mar-resistant, or install decorative security bars over glass windows. (Red Deer building codes prohibit installation of security bars on bedroom windows.) Bar windows from the inside and ensure they open easily in case of emergency. Remove any bushes, trees or other obstructions (e.g. sheds) that hide windows from view.

Doors

- All exterior doors should be of solid-core construction, 4.5 cm thick with a 180° peephole.
- Door frames should have a proper security strike plate.
- Avoid hollow-core and glass doors.
- Keep your exterior doors locked when you are at home, especially when you are working in the yard.
- Never open the door unless you know who is on the other side.

Garage and Vehicle

The garage is another popular target.

- Keep curtains over your garage windows so thieves can't window shop or check to see if your car is there.
- Install inward-swinging, solid-core doors with deadbolts on your attached garage door.
- Padlock the garage door and keep it locked, even when you are home.
- If you have an automatic garage door opener, customize your remote to ensure that you're the only one who can open it.

Safety Plan

Have a plan in place – you may want to identify a safe room in your home where family members can go if an intruder enters while you are home. The room should have a locking door, a phone and (if on the second level) an escape ladder that hooks over the windowsill and drops to a safe distance from the ground.

Advertise the fact that all property in your home is marked for identification by placing Operation Identification decals (available from police services or your Neighbourhood Watch group) on your entrance doors and windows.

Record the serial numbers and descriptions of all your valuable property.

Your Neighborhood

The best way to keep crime out of your neighbourhood is to get involved in crime prevention. Get to know your neighbours and discuss effective crime prevention strategies for your community.

If something needs doing, do it! If your neighbour is away and you see an obvious invitation to a burglar or thief, do what you can to help: remove mail and papers or help out with minimal yard maintenance. Areas that look well cared for are less attractive to those with criminal intentions.

If you see something suspicious in your neighbourhood, call the RCMP.

Apartment Security

Don't Let Them In

- Never use your intercom to let a stranger into the building, including people who say "parcel delivery," "I forgot my key," or "paper boy." Instruct all tradespeople, delivery people and solicitors to contact the resident manager. Remember, you are responsible for any person you let in.
- Never hold the outer door open for strangers. Tell them to buzz the person they're visiting or the resident manager, or hang back to avoid a confrontation.

Keep Doors Locked

- Make a habit of locking the door when you come into your apartment. A thief can steal your valuables in the time it takes to have a shower.
- Always lock your apartment door, windows and patio doors when you leave, even if you're just going to the laundry room or the mailbox. Use a drop bar to secure sliding glass doors.
- Never prop open the entrance doors and leave them unattended. If you're moving, post someone at the doors.

Don't Make Your Building a Target

- Report any burnt-out lights, lost keys, nonfunctional locks or doors, or broken windows to the building manager.
- Never put your identification or address on your apartment or car key rings.
- Never hide spare keys.
- If your apartment door doesn't have a deadbolt lock or peephole, ask the resident manager for permission to have them installed.
- Have your keys ready as you approach the door.
- Get to know your neighbours so you know if someone doesn't belong. Arrange to keep an eye on each other's apartments while you're away.

Don't Tip Them Off!

- Never leave notes on your apartment door or on the intercom panel indicating your whereabouts or return time – this tells a potential thief how much time they have.
- When you go out, leave a radio and a light on, or hook them up to a timer.
- Draw curtains or close blinds after dark. When the curtains are open at night you can't see out but others can see in.

BREAK-IN FACTS:

- A residential break-in happens every 90 seconds in Canada.
- More than 80 per cent of break-ins occur during daylight hours.
- Thieves don't choose victims randomly – they look for opportunities.
- Most illegal entries are made by amateur thieves without the use of sophisticated tools.
- Break-ins cost Canadian insurance companies millions of dollars each year in claim payments. This cost is shared by policyholders through increased premiums.

To report a crime:

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Emergencies	911
Victim Services	341-2041
Crime Stoppers	340-8477 (TIPS)
Web site	www.tipsubmit.com

Community crime prevention programs:

Neighbourhood Watch	343-6181
Citizens on Patrol (COPS)	341-2060
Block Parents	346-1162

For more information on home security, call the RCMP Community Policing Section at 341-2060.

Neighbour emergency contacts:

Contact name _____

Contact number _____

Cell or alternate number _____

Contact name _____

Contact number _____

Cell or alternate number _____

Contact name _____

Contact number _____

Cell or alternate number _____