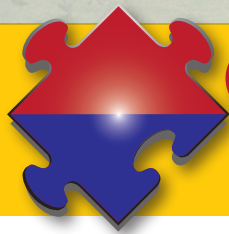


Protecting Your Home

Absences From Home



CRIME REDUCTION
Canada®

Plan Ahead For Absences Or Holidays

An empty house invites burglars. Never leave your house obviously unoccupied, even briefly by leaving notes on the door. Lock away the garbage bin. (The garbage bin can be used to reach windows or to conceal stolen property.) Turn the volume down on your answering machine. Replace any ageing locks with deadlocks. Leave a key with a trusted neighbour or relative.

If burglars are certain no one is at home, they will feel safer committing a crime. They often canvass neighbourhoods looking for uncut lawns, and stuffed mail boxes. They spend spare evenings looking for darkened houses or lights that have been left on too long. To reduce the possibility of burglary, be aware of these rules:

When You Are At Home, Or At Work:

- Keep a record of serial numbers and descriptions of your household possessions.
- Inscribe your driver's licence or social insurance number on your possessions so that police can identify them as yours and return them to you.
- Install secure locks in your house and use them.
- Do not leave notes on your door.
- Change locks if keys have been lost or stolen.
- Doors should have sturdy frames, with hinges that cannot be removed.
- When moving into a new house or apartment, have all the locks changed.
- Lock your garage.
- Secure your gas barbecue with a chain and padlock.
- Lawn mowers, snow blowers, gas barbecues, should be stored out of sight when not in use. Garden sheds and cabanas should also be locked.

PROTECTING YOUR HOME - ABSENCES

When You Go Away On Vacation:

- Whether you go away for the day or a week's vacation, use automatic timers that will turn lights on and off and give your home an occupied appearance.
- Leave a door key with a trusted neighbour and a key to the burglar alarm system, if you have one.
- Notify close neighbours about how long you will be gone and details of any persons who will be visiting your home during your absence.
- Have a neighbour pick up newspapers and mail if possible, rather than discontinuing deliveries.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed or snow shovelled.
- If you have a second car, leave it in your driveway, or arrange to have a neighbour park a car in your driveway.
- Check all windows and doors to make certain that they are locked.
- Lock your garage. Consider a house sitter.
- Provide your neighbour with the phone number of a close relative or friend in case of emergency.
- Leave your travelling schedule and phone number with a neighbour or relative so that you may be contacted if necessary.
- Check with your insurance agent with regard to home checks while your home is unoccupied. You may not be covered if your home has not been visited while you are away on vacation.

"Enjoy yourself, knowing that you left your home as secure as you reasonably could make it."

Timers

Install timer devices that turn lights and radios on and off at night, and outside sensors that are movement-activated. During the hours prior to bedtime and the hours of darkness, a home should have strategic lighting on. A home not showing any exterior lights will give the appearance of being unoccupied and could attract the unwanted attention of a burglar. Similarly, a homeowner who leaves lights on when away for the weekend or longer will attract attention during the night because all the other homes in the area are in darkness. A light timer installed in the living room and another in the bedroom that go on and off at different times will give your home the appearance of being occupied. You may even consider mounting outside lights equipped with motion detectors at the front and rear of your house.



Several makes of timers, ranging in cost and offering a variety of features, are available from your local home improvement or hardware store.

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