

Home Theft Prevention

If you are away from your home, whether on vacation or making a trip to the grocery store, these helpful tips will help prevent theft to your home:

- Ask a neighbor to watch your residence while you are away. Leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Ask local police to place your home on their vacation check list.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
- Consider taking valuables to a bank safety deposit box.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages; leave your normal message on the machine.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number and post Operation Identification decals on entry doors and windows.
- Have a neighbor place garbage cans at the curb on your normal pickup day(s) and return them after the garbage pickup is made
- Have good locks on all doors and windows and use them.
- If you have call forwarding on your telephone, forward your calls to a trusted friend or relative.
- Leave shades and blinds in a normal position.
- Make sure your residence looks lived in, not empty.
- Plug in timers to turn lights and a radio or television on and off at appropriate times.
- Stop all deliveries, arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspaper, and packages.
- Test your smoke and burglar alarms.
- Turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing telephone.