

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE STATE POLICE

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Delaware State Police Offer Burglary Prevention Tips

The Delaware State Police would like to offer these burglary prevention tips to residents in an effort to decrease their chances of becoming the victim of a burglary.

When it comes to burglary prevention, you can reduce the likelihood of your home becoming a target if you take steps to increase the risk of detection to the offender, increase the level of difficulty required to gain access to your home and valuables, and reduce the perceived rewards of committing the crime.

- Report suspicious activity to the police. If something doesn't look or feel right, it probably isn't. When in doubt, it's okay to call 9-1-1.
- Never leave a house key in an obvious place outside such as under a doormat or flower pot.
- Remove keys and garage door openers from your vehicles, especially those parked outside.
- Lock doors and windows, including garage doors. This includes the door to your attached garage. During summer months, use secondary locks to secure windows in unattended rooms.
- Look into improving the security hardware of your home to fortify entry points.
- Eliminate areas that reduce the visibility of your property, especially those areas that block entryways and windows. Dense bushes and low hanging trees need to be trimmed. Blocked visibility makes it difficult for neighbors to identify and report suspicious activity.
- Install motion-sensing, dusk to dawn lighting that illuminates the perimeter of your property.
- Install locks on gates.
- Do not leave tools or climbing devices out such as ladders, storage containers, and outdoor furniture that allow someone to gain access to your home.
- Block visibility to valuables such as electronics and jewelry in the home by covering windows, or move valuables out of sight of windows.
- Create an appearance of occupancy. Residential burglaries happen during the day when residents are gone to school or work. Making it appear that someone is home during these times can be a deterrent. Some things that you can do every day include leaving lights and television or radios on. When you are on vacation, stop the delivery of mail and papers, arrange to have your lawn mowed and garbage cans put out for collection, and set lights and radios on timers. Make sure

that your answering machine does not indicate that you are not home or out of town.

- Keep an inventory of your valuables stored in a fire safe container. Information such as serial numbers, description, make and model, and fair market value are important information to supply to the police to increase the chance of recovery and can be used to submit to your insurance company. If valuables do not have a serial number or identifier, engrave and etch a driver's license number on the items. Take pictures of jewelry and artwork.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch. This program trains residents about identifying and reporting suspicious activity and crime prevention strategies, and encourages residents to get involved in the safety of their neighborhood.