



PREVENTING RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY AND THEFT AT HOME

Of all the major criminal offenses, residential burglary is perhaps the most common. A burglary is reported every 15 seconds in the United States. Here are some ways you can protect your home from burglary and your belongings from theft. Examine your home on the outside and inside to see what changes may make your home less attractive to criminals:

- **Lighting** - It is a recognized fact that good lighting is a deterrent to crime. Lighting lets the homeowner see the pathway they take from their vehicle to the house. It permits them to see as they stop at the door to use their keys. Effective lighting also forces the intruder to work in an area where he may be exposed and reported to the police. All sides of the home should be protected by security lighting that is located high, out of reach, and is vandal resistant.
- **Landscaping and Plant Materials** - Bushes, trees and shrubbery can conceal an intruder as he attempts entry into a window or door; or worse yet, as he waits in hiding for the homeowner! The intruder's ideal target is a house surrounded by large hedges or shrubs, which serve to hamper visibility from the street and neighbor's houses. Trim shrubbery and trees so doors, windows, driveways and sidewalks are visible. Prune trees so a thief can't climb into second story windows. Use gravel on your driveway and on the ground near doors and windows so you can hear someone approaching your home. Plant spiny or thorny plants along fences and under windows. This may discourage burglars from climbing fences or entering through windows.
- **Doors and Windows** - Doors are usually the burglar's first choice of entry into a home. Exterior doors should be of solid core wood or steel and properly installed. The strike plate should be secured with at least 3" screws. Sliding glass doors should have a dowel to insert in the track, or a secondary lock, to prevent the door from being removed. All exterior doors should be fitted with a deadbolt lock. Windows can be a way for a burglar to enter a home. The primary interest in securing windows is to eliminate entry by prying open or breaking a small area of glass to reach a single latch. Use a professional glazing material to cover any windows within arm's reach of a door. Use a secondary lock or dowel in the track of all windows.



OTHER WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY:

- Don't give the burglar a helping hand. Lock all doors and windows when you leave. Many burglaries occur because a door was left unlocked either intentionally or by accident.
- Give your home an occupied look. When away from home, leave a radio playing. Always leave a few inner lights on at night. Automatic timers can be used to vary the on/off pattern of interior lights when you are away.
- Use common sense. Don't leave notes outside your home or on your answering machine announcing your absence. Don't leave any keys hidden outside your home.
- Protect your property. Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number. Keep a record of your electronics and other items to include the brand, model and the serial number. Don't keep large sums of cash or easily stolen valuables, such as jewelry, unprotected in your home. Keep valuables you don't use often in a safety deposit box.
- Protect your property outside your home. Use secure locks on your bicycles, barbecues and tools, or put them inside.
- Be cautious of strangers. Don't allow people you don't know access to your home. Don't provide temptation by leaving your valuables within easy access when you are entertaining guests.

To start a Neighborhood Watch Program in your area, please contact Deputy Myers at (951) 955-9225 or ddmyers@riversidesheriff.org

Members of the public in the City of Eastvale and surrounding areas are encouraged to use the Crime Tip Line **(951) 955-2650** to report information that may assist the Eastvale Police in identifying persons of interest. This is an anonymous tip line, and callers are not required to leave their name or personal information.

Citizens may also submit an anonymous tip using the Sheriff's CrimeTips online form: www.riversidesheriff.org/crimetips