



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION

Burglary victims often feel vulnerable and violated, as their personal space has been invaded. Residential burglaries statistically occur during the day while families are at work or school. But recently here in the Franklin-Bingham Farms area we have experienced several nighttime invasions while the homeowners had been sleeping. The most common entry technique for these nighttime invasions has been through unlocked doors.

Unfortunately, it is hard to catch burglars in the act and harder to catch them after the fact. While residential burglaries seem random in nature, there is a simple selection process. Occupied or unoccupied homes with easy or concealed access and quick escape routes are targeted. Once inside burglars look for small expensive items that are easily traded for cash. Favorite items include cash, jewelry, laptop computers, small electronic devices and guns.

Protect yourself and make your home a less likely target with the following ideas:

Ways To Discourage Burglars:

Bright Ideas:

- Install lights by all exterior doors. Use lights at night.
- Install outside light fixtures where bulbs are hard to reach.
- Illuminate house numbers for quick emergency services response.
- Trim bushes back from doors and windows. Don't give burglars a place to hide.

Vehicle Smarts:

- Close the garage door and cover windows so no one can see inside.
- If vehicle cannot be parked in the garage be sure and lock all doors and hide the garage door opener from view.

Doors & Windows:

- Change the locks when moving into a new residence.
- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Use solid core or metal exterior doors.
- Install four-screw strike plates with three 1/2-inch screws to penetrate the wood frame, and use dead bolt locks on exterior doors.

- Add auxiliary track-type locks, removable drop bars, wooden dowels, or pinning devices to windows and sliding glass doors.
- If you have “French Door” style exterior doors, secure the non-active door by installing header and foot bolts w/ 1-inch throws.

Landscaping:

- Trim tree branches 7 feet off the ground.
- Prune shrubs to under 3 feet from the ground.
- Use motion sensors and photocells on exterior floodlights.

Personal Information:

- Keep all valuables in a home safe, which has been secured to a floor or interior wall.
- Complete Operation ID and display the window stickers.

Dealing With Strangers:

- Never let strangers enter your home.
- Verify workers identity by employer issued ID cards and /or by calling employer.
- Never give keys to workers.
- Never leave notes for anyone on the door.

While On Vacation:

- Hire a house sitter (preferably a friend or family member)
- Install a UL approved and monitored residential alarm system.
- Park a neighbor’s car in your driveway.
- Use timers on indoor lights to give the impression you are home.
- Cancel all newspaper and mail deliveries.
- Visit the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department and fill out a Vacation Home Check request form.

CONSIDER JOINING THE MOBILE WATCH GROUP IN YOUR AREA.

Additional information can be obtained from the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department at (248) 626-9672.