

How to Protect Your Home From Burglars

It has been proven that thieves often look for opportunity or an easy target, so it is important to make your home as secure as possible. If we make our entire neighbourhood a difficult place to commit a crime, the thieves will hopefully look for easier targets. The following are some ideas that will help to make your home, and our whole neighbourhood, safer from thieves.

1. Look out for your neighbours. We need to keep our eyes open for cars or people acting suspiciously in the neighbourhood. If we see suspicious behaviour we should pay attention and if warranted, notify the RCMP. Do not insert yourself into an active crime.
2. Better yet, join [High Country Rural Crime Watch](#) (link). Membership is free of charge. Once you've joined, you will receive fan-out messages about crimes and prevention. Visit the website for Tips, Resources & Emergency phone numbers.
3. Let your neighbours know when you will be away so they can keep an eye on your home during your absence.
4. If you're away, make your house look occupied. Use timers to have lights (or a TV), visible from the front, go on and off at normal times. Use window coverings.
5. Ensure windows and doors are securely locked when leaving your home. Many break-ins occur through doors and windows that are left open or unlocked, or have faulty locks.
6. Install/activate a security system and engage it whenever you leave the house. Although a security system may not prevent a break-in, it has shown to reduce the amount of time thieves are in your home.
7. Install motion sensor lights. Areas lit all night are actually targeted more frequently by vandals than those not lit at all. However, motion sensor lights have proven to be effective and surprise the would-be burglar when sensor lights click on.

8. Install motion-sensor security cameras in conjunction with motion sensor lights.
9. Ensure your spare key is well-hidden, or at a neighbour's instead.
10. Guard your garage door. Do not leave your opener in your car if parked in your driveway. Consider keeping your garage door opener with you.
11. Keep your yard work up so overgrown areas next to your home cannot be used to hide.

Observe – Record – Report

RCMP Complaints: 403.933.4262

RCMP Admin., Turner Valley: 403.933.7227

Emergency: 9-1-1