



Grover Beach Police Department

Burglary Prevention Tips

The facts about burglary ...

- Over 6,000 residential burglaries occur each day in this country. That's one every 11 seconds!
- Nearly half of these burglaries are committed without force - that is through *unlocked* doors and windows.
- Many burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home. Good locks and good neighbors who watch out for each other can be your best protection .

Most of these burglaries could be prevented ...

- Always lock your doors and windows, even when leaving for "just a minute".
- Never leave a house key available: under a doormat, in a flowerpot, on the ledge of the door. These are the first places a burglar will look.

Check your Locks

- Exterior doors should have "dead bolt" locks with a 1" strong metal bar extending into the door frame.
- Sliding doors and windows should all have "ventilation" locks as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security.
- Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio or other doors that lead out through storage areas or spare rooms.
- Have a neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway to give your home that lived-in appearance.

Before You Leave Your Residence

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use timers so that lights, radio, and television go on and off throughout the house to indicate someone is home.
- For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and the newspaper delivery or have a neighbor collect them daily.
- In short, make your home look "lived in".

Remember, if you come home and see a broken window or jimmied door, don't go in. Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Phone the police immediately at the non-emergency number of (805) 473-4511 or the emergency number 9-1-1.

Operation Identification

Another deterrent to "would be" burglars is *Operation Identification*.

- Mark your valuables with your California driver's license number preceded by the letters "CA"
- Post Operation I.D. stickers in your doors and windows to warn criminals to stay away.
- Burglars don't want marked merchandise because it is difficult to fence and evidence of guilt if they are caught.
- So mark your items as conspicuously as possible without defacing them.
- Photograph and catalog those items that cannot be engraved (jewelry, silverware, antiques).
- Operation I.D. also facilitates the return of stolen property when it is recovered.

A Good Neighbor

Law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once, but you and your neighbors can. You're the ones who really know what's going on in the neighborhood.

Put that neighborhood know-how to work. It's simple:

- Just use your eyes and ears - and then your telephone. If you spot something suspicious, call the police or sheriff immediately.
- Don't try to stop a criminal yourself - it can be dangerous.

Neighbors working together in cooperation with law enforcement make one of the best crime fighting teams around.

Don't let anyone tell you that [Neighborhood Watch](#) is an excuse to be nosey. In three different neighborhoods in the Long Beach, California area, active Neighborhood Watch Programs resulted in a 45 percent reduction in residential burglaries.

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