

# Home Invasion Prevention Tip Sheet

## Safety in your home

For the majority of people, a feeling of security is found in the safety of their homes. However, many Canadians fail to take even fundamental precautions to secure their homes against robbery.

There are a number of precautions you can take that will reduce the opportunities for burglary.

## Prevention tips

- ✓ Conduct a security check of your home to determine possible entry points and any weaknesses it may have.
- ✓ Keep all entrances and garages well-lit at night.
- ✓ Do not leave telltale signs that you are away.
- ✓ Install good locks and always use them.
- ✓ Install a wide-angle door viewer that permits you to see callers before you open the door.
- ✓ Never open a door to strangers without credentials.
- ✓ Change your routine often. Burglars can operate on your routine!
- ✓ Do not keep large amounts of money in your home.
- ✓ Mark valuable items for identification. The Operation Identification Program has been developed by police to assist people in marking their property.
- ✓ Keep valuables in a safety deposit box at your bank. If this is not possible, keep them locked up in a reasonable hiding place in your home.

Note: A few inexpensive but rich-looking pieces kept in a jewellery box as a decoy may deter unnecessary ransacking of your home in search of valuables.

## What if...

A burglar assumes you are not home and enters without checking.

- Do not attack the burglar who is as likely to be as frightened as you.
- Try to memorize a description of the person, particularly facial characteristics.
- When the burglar leaves, call the police immediately.

## Facts and fiction

The portrayal of a burglar as a sinister thief operating at night, a handkerchief over his face, coat collar turned up and peaked cap on his head is misleading and inaccurate.

Statistics indicate that the thief will most probably be one of the male youths in the neighbourhood, usually under 30 and most likely a teenager.

He may be well dressed, wearing a recognizable uniform or a suit jacket.  
It will more than likely be broad daylight.

The typical burglar does not want to harm you, just get into your home, steal what is available and valuable, and get out as quickly as possible, unobserved.

## Away from home

It is important to take extra care in securing your home when you are going to be away for any length of time. Not only should your home be secure but it should also appear lived in.

## Prevention tips

- ✓ Secure all windows, doors and the garage before you leave.
- ✓ Leave a radio playing to indicate that someone is home.
- ✓ Leave one or two lights on, preferably timers that turn on according to how dark it is outside.
- ✓ Discontinue mail, milk and newspaper deliveries.

- ✓ Arrange to have someone pick up any newspapers or mail that are left on your step.
- ✓ Leave a key with someone you trust.
- ✓ Let your neighbours know you are going to be away, for how long and where you can be contacted if necessary.

For more information or to request a copy of a *Seniors' Guidebook To Safety And Security*, please contact your local RCMP office or go online to [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ccaps/senior\\_e.htm](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ccaps/senior_e.htm)

## **For more information**

Alberta Seniors and Community Supports  
Alberta Seniors Information Line  
Toll-free in Alberta: 1-800-642-3853  
Edmonton: 780-427-7876  
Web: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca)