

Home Security

Know Your Options

Be Prepared! Educate Yourself on Crime Prevention Tactics

This flyer has been prepared to help protect you from crime. It is full of useful tips that inform you how to avoid unnecessary risks. By taking simple precautions, you can reduce risk as well as discouraging those who commit crimes in almost any situation.

The facts about burglary...

- > Criminals committed over 244,900 burglaries in California in 2004. That's over one burglary every 2 minutes.
- > In many of these burglaries, no force entry was used. That means the burglars got in through UNLOCKED doors and windows.

Most burglaries can be prevented.

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

If you would like to make life even harder for crooks, remember the following tips:

- > Exterior doors should have "dead bolt" locks with a one inch strong metal bar extending into the door frame.
- > Sliding glass doors and windows should all have "ventilation" locks as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security.
- > Be sure to include good locks for the garage, cellar, patio or other doors that lead out through storage areas or a spare room.
- > Have good exterior lighting, check lighting often and replace older light bulbs.
- > If you come home and see a broken window or a jimmed door, **don't go in!** Confronting a burglar can be dangerous. Phone local law enforcement immediately.

Going Out?

- > Lock all doors and windows.
- > Use timers so that lights go on and off through the house to indicate someone is home. Unplug TVs, computers and other unnecessary appliances.
- > For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and newspaper delivery or have a neighbor collect them daily.
- > Mow your lawn just before leaving, have someone mow if you will be gone for an extended period of time.
- > In short, make your house "LIVED IN".

Home Security Tips

- > Install a wide-angle lens viewer in the front door.
- > Never open the door without knowing who is there.
- > Consider alarm systems or trained security dogs for additional protection.
- > Whenever you move to a new home, have the locks changed.
- > Never put a first name on a mail box. Use initials and last name only. Consider a PO BOX.
- > Keep doorway, windows and porches clear when planting bushes and flowers so as not to provide a burglar the opportunity to work undetected.
- > Don't leave notes indicating you aren't home or when you will return.
- > Mark your valuables with your driver's license number preceded by "CA".
- > Photograph those items that cannot be engraved (jewelry, silverware, antiques).
- > Make sure your house numbers are lighted and visible from the street.

Call 911 if the situation is life-threatening. AND FINALLY, if a crime does occur... REPORT IT! Everyone should consider it his/her responsibility to report crime. The police need the eyes and ears of all community members to aid in crime prevention.

UC Santa Cruz Police Department

831-459-2231



Crimes in Progress:

9-1-1