



## **Crime Prevention Tips**

### **Bushes and Vegetation**

Thick shrubs can lend curb appeal. Unfortunately, lush hedges can provide cover for a burglar. Keep vegetation trimmed low, and consider installing thorny plants close to the house to thwart thieves.

### **Mirror and Alarm**

A mirror in the entryway lets you assess your look before heading out the door. However, check its position from your front windows. Can you see the reflection of your alarm system? If so, would-be intruders can too - and they'll know at a glance if you neglected to arm it when you dashed out on an errand. An alarm can be a deterrent and also call police if it is set off when you are away.

### **Keys and Valuables**

That bowl or basket where everyone tosses keys, wallets, phones and other valuables may also help possible criminals. Sure, you'll know where they are - but so will a burglar. The best place for car keys is beside your bed. If you wake up to noises that sound like someone breaking in, hit the alarm on the fob to scare the criminal away. No one likes to get locked out, but a spare key stashed under a rock or above the door frame is bound to be discovered, so exchange yours with a neighbor you trust in case of an emergency.

### **Doors**

You might keep the deadbolt locked on the front door at all times, but what about the back door off the patio? Or maybe you leave the garage door wide open during the afternoons? Be as conscientious about your less-used entrances as you are with your main one. Also reinforce sliding doors with a sliding lock or even a metal or wood piece along the rails can be effective.

### **Hiding Spots for Valuables**

Thieves know homeowners hide valuables in their sock and underwear drawers, as well as under a mattress or in a nightstand. Use less known places like an attic, secret compartment or drawer, or a heavy safe that can't be carried.

### **Friends, Followers and Fiends**

When you're out of town, have a neighbor pick up your mail and stop newspaper delivery so thieves won't see them piling up. Also, block any social media posts to the public that may say you are out of town or not at home. All a burglar has to do is look up your address and then leisurely go to your home, knowing you won't be back from Italy until Sunday!

*You know your area and your neighbors better than our office. Please report suspicious activity to our office by dialing 911. Information on what you saw (license plate number, car make/model, time of activity, description of perpetrators, etc.) is helpful. If a crime was committed, we can use that information in our investigation and possibly arrest those responsible.*