

Preventing Residential Burglary

Each year thousands of burglaries are reported in Minneapolis. A great percentage of reported burglaries in Fifth Precinct are a result of unforced entry, including unlocked or open doors and windows. Prevention measures can be taken to drastically reduce the occurrence of opportunity crimes.

The Minneapolis Police Department has two citywide goals: reducing crime including burglary and improving the relationship with the community it serves. Please help us achieve our goals by working to eliminate burglary in your community.



What exactly is burglary? Though definitions vary, burglary can be described as the crime of unauthorized breaking and entering into a structure for the purpose of committing another crime. Force is not a requirement.

TIPS TO PREVENT BURGLARY

Home Security:

- **Lock your home, apartment, or garage doors and windows at all times**, even if you are in the home or yard.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. This includes laptops, purses, wallets, keys, and anything else that may contain personal information. Remember: Treat your garage door opener as a key to your property.
- **Record make, model, and serial number on your valuables** and keep in a safe place. This information can greatly assist in recovery of items. Photographs may also be of assistance.
- Secure windows and doors in homes and garages.
 - Use deadbolt locks with at least a 1" throw on all exterior doors. Use 6" strike plates and 3" case-hardened screws that enter the studs behind the doorframe.
 - Pin or add auxiliary locking devices to windows and sliding glass doors.
 - Place an opaque material over garage windows.
 - Install a solid core door with a deadbolt on garage service door.
 - Secure overhead garage door tracks with a padlock.
- Consider using timers on lights, radios and/or a TV when you are away from home.
- If you have a security system, use it even while at home. Dogs can be a deterrent as well.
- Know who is in your home; service providers and contractors should do background checks on their employees.

Yard Security:

- Do not leave valuables on porches, in yards, or in other unsecured areas of the home.
- Light up all home entry points. Utilize or add exterior lighting that eliminates shadows and hiding spots. Note: Equalize exterior lighting wattage with interior to avoid glare.
- Leave outdoor lights on overnight or install lighting that operates from dusk till dawn.
- Keep shrubs, bushes and hedges trimmed down to a height of 3' or less. Keep all flowering trees trimmed up to a height of 6' or higher.

Neighborhood Security:

- Get to know your neighbors; look out for one another. Neighbors are your best line of defense.
- Join or initiate a block club or neighborhood watch group.
- Create a block contact list to disseminate crime trends and prevention information.

How to report a burglary:

- Call 911 to report a burglary, whether or not you witness the burglary in progress. Note missing items, suspect description, tools, objects, or DNA evidence left at scene, possible time and date of occurrence, video surveillance, etc.

See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/> for additional tips and resources.

Call 911 on all suspicious activity including suspicious persons and vehicles loitering near homes and in alleyways, or unfamiliar noises such as breaking glass and loud banging.

Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist for additional prevention information. See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf> to locate which Precinct and Sector you reside in.

