



Reducing A Burglar's Opportunities

Burglar's are opportunists who make the most of tempting situations.

To help prevent you or someone you know from becoming a victim, here are some simple and practical steps anyone can take to reduce these opportunities:

- Setup or join a Neighbourhood Support group in your area and advertise the fact by displaying Neighbourhood Support signs and stickers.
- Make sure doors, windows and other entry and exit points from your house have good quality and effective catches and locks. Ideally choose a deadbolt whenever possible. Get into the habit of always using your locks.
- Always lock doors and windows at night, if you're out in the garden, or going away. Don't leave a key hidden outside - burglars know where to look for these.
- Keep sheds and garages secure and lock away tools, ladders, quads and bikes.
- Consider having an alarm system professionally installed or have your property monitored by a reputable security company.
- Install sensor lights on access paths or around main external doors.
- Install a peep-hole in your front door so you know who's there before opening the door.
- Don't be afraid to ask unannounced visitors who they are and what they want. If you aren't satisfied with their answer, don't open the door to them.
- Trim and/or remove trees and shrubbery which might 'hide' a burglary or their activity.
- Get to know your neighbours and develop plans to deal with any problems or suspicious activity. Exchanging contact information such as phone numbers and emails is a good start.
- If you're going away, ask neighbours to collect your mail and make your place look occupied. They could turn on lights, park their vehicle outside, hang washing, or mow your lawns.
- Mark valuable property such as electronics and tools with identifiable details such as your full name, driver's license number or phone number. Keep track of serial numbers which can more easily reunite you with your items if they are ever stolen.
- Place 'Beware of Dog' signs around your property to help deter would be trespassers.
- Never confide in anyone you don't trust that you're away from your home or live alone.
- Police are always interested in suspicious activity. Don't hesitate to contact them at 105 to report unusual activity. If you see a crime being committed, call 111 right away.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously ask yourself these questions:
 - Have I seen this person in our neighbourhood before?
 - Is there a sense of purpose to what they are doing? Do they appear hesitant?
 - How did they arrive to the area? Is there a car nearby? What's the registration?

Remember, burglars like easy opportunities. Avoid giving them an 'invite' by being secure!