

Crime Prevention

Every 15 minutes a burglary occurs somewhere in Wisconsin.



Healthy home tips on home security

- ✓ Install motion detector lights. Lighting is one of the most effective ways to discourage a burglar. By surrounding the exterior of your home with motion detector lights, you can make it almost impossible for a burglar to enter without being noticed.
- ✓ Make your home visible. The effectiveness of lighting will be improved if privacy hedges, shrubbery, and fences are cleared to make your home more visible to neighbors and passersby.
- ✓ Install an automatic garage door opener. A garage door opener with a remote control allows you to enter and leave your home safely. The remote opener should activate a light that will illuminate the garage so that an intruder hiding there can be seen from the safety of your locked car. Be sure the door reverses easily when it hits an object.
- ✓ Install dead-bolt locks on all exterior doors. These locks should be installed in reinforced doorframes so that the doors cannot be easily kicked in. All locks should be able to be unlocked from the inside without a key to allow a quick escape from a home fire.
- ✓ Install wide-angle viewfinders or "peepholes" in all exterior doors. These will let you see who is outside your door before you open it.
- ✓ Contact your local police or sheriff's department to find out where to obtain an engraver to mark valuable items such as stereos, computers, cameras, lawnmowers and tools. In Wisconsin the recommended identification number is your driver's license number preceded by the letters "WI." After engraving your items, you will be given Operation Identification stickers to put in windows near your front and back door. These stickers tell would-be

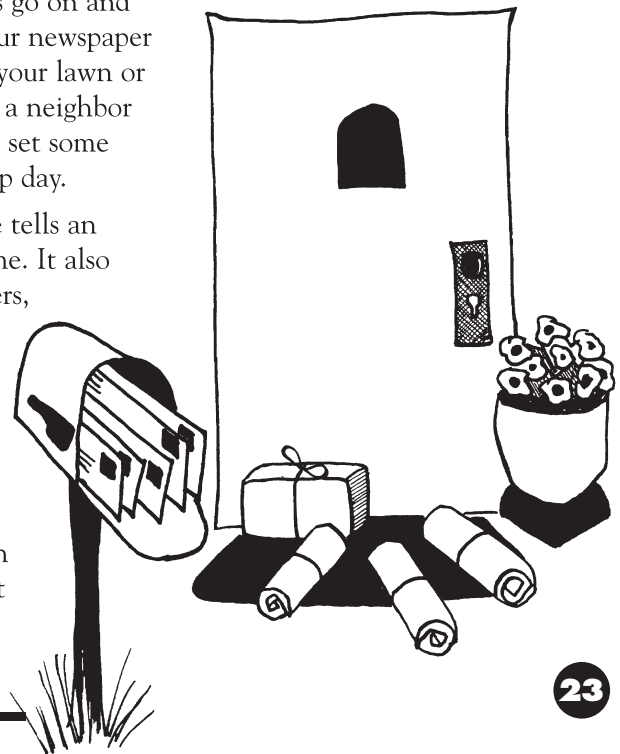
burglars that valuables in your home will be hard to sell.

- ✓ Don't keep expensive jewelry, collectibles, or large amounts of cash in your home.
- ✓ Keep an inventory of your valuables with serial numbers. A videotape, photograph, or sales receipt will help support an insurance claim in case of loss.
- ✓ Install locks on windows. All sliding doors and windows should have "ventilation" locks as well as auxiliary locks. Screens and storm windows should be secured from the inside. Be sure to include good locks for garage and basement windows.
- ✓ Keep shrubbery trimmed near entrances so that it doesn't provide cover for an intruder.
- ✓ Don't advertise your absence. Never leave a message on your answering machine that tells thieves you are away for a few days or on vacation. Before you leave, set timers so that lights, TVs, and radios go on and off throughout the house. Don't stop your newspaper or mail delivery. Hire someone to mow your lawn or remove snow while you're away and ask a neighbor to pick up your newspaper and mail and set some garbage out on your curb on trash pickup day.
- ✓ Close your garage door. A vacant garage tells an intruder that you're probably not at home. It also provides easy access to bikes, lawnmowers, snow removal equipment and other valuables. A burglar who closes the garage door creates a hiding place where he can work at his leisure to break into your home.
- ✓ Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight. Don't keep the title for your car in the glove compartment. You will need it to prove ownership if the car is stolen.

Home security

More than 30,000 burglaries occur every year in Wisconsin. With each home break-in, hundreds of dollars worth of valuables are lost to criminals and the lives of the residents are disrupted. Many burglary victims will never feel safe in their home again. The most serious home break-ins involve violence and even murder.

Most thieves are looking for an "easy mark." With a few simple strategies, you can discourage them from targeting your home.



Personal protection

Whether at home or away, we are all potential crime victims. The most common crimes involve burglary and theft. But reports of car jackings, child abductions, and physical assaults create great anxiety and fear among many Americans.

You can reduce your family's risk of being victimized by a criminal. Remember that your best defenses are awareness and prevention.



Healthy home tips on personal safety

- ✓ Keep the doors of your home locked whether you are at home or away.
- ✓ Never open your door to a stranger. Use your “peephole” to see who is at the door before you open it. Ask for identification before allowing a meter reader or repairman into your home.
- ✓ Keep your car doors locked while you are driving and while the car is parked.
- ✓ Don't give your name, address, charge card number or social security number to an unknown caller. When programming messages on your answering machine never give your name or address. Program it to say something like: “I'm sorry we are unable to take your call now. Please leave a message at the tone.”
- ✓ Never surprise a burglar. If, upon returning to your home, you spot evidence of a break-in, do not enter the area. Go to a safe place and call the police immediately. The burglar may still be around and could be dangerous.
- ✓ Don't display large amounts of cash or expensive jewelry when you are in public. This is especially important when you are in unfamiliar surroundings.
- ✓ Avoid areas that are known to have high crime rates, especially at night.

Protect your children from crime.

- ✓ Never leave small children alone in a public area such as a store, park, or public bathroom. Have young children walk to school with an older sibling or friend, or take them to school yourself. Don't allow children to roam the neighborhood, go trick or treating alone, or sell items door-to-door without adult supervision.
- ✓ Instruct children not to answer the door if they are alone.
- ✓ Teach children about telephone safety. Children who are at home alone should tell callers that their parents are unable to come to the telephone. Warn them not to give their name or address to an unknown caller.
- ✓ Talk to children about crime and safety. Warn them not to talk to strangers and remind them not to enter the car or home of someone they don't know.
- ✓ Teach children how to use emergency telephone numbers. In most areas 911 will reach an emergency operator. Leave the telephone number of a parent, neighbor, or nearby relative so that children or a babysitter can reach someone if they have questions or feel anxious.
- ✓ Teach children their home telephone number and address. Show them how to call home from a pay telephone.

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