



AROUND THE HOME:

- Lock all doors and windows when you're away, even for a short while. Most burglaries occur between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Also be sure to use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Leave your curtains slightly parted. Drapes or shades that are fully closed give a deserted look to a home or apt.
- Put your lights, TV and/or stereo on timers. Stagger the times they will go on and off so it looks as if someone is home.
- If expense allows it, install a home security system. More than 90% of convicted burglars interviewed in a study said they would avoid breaking into homes with an alarm.
- Use an engraver to mark your valuables with an easily identifiable number and keep an inventory of your belongings and serial numbers in a secure place such as a safe deposit box.
- Don't hide a key in the mailbox, under the doormat or above the doorway. If there is a chance a former owner or tenant might still have the key to your home, change the locks.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery to your home while you're away. Also ask a friend or neighbor to pick up any packages or flyers left outside.
- Trim trees and shrubs so burglars have fewer places to hide.
- Install peepholes in exterior doors and bars on basement windows. If you have children install peep holes that they can reach.

Always report any suspicious or criminal activity immediately to your local law enforcement agency. Never feel silly for making a report. Many arrests are made because a citizen reported something they felt was out of the ordinary.