

Staying Safe Practical Tips for Personal and Home Safety



Become familiar with the Neighbourhood Watch or Block Watch program in your community. Neighbours looking out for each other is one of the most effective ways to prevent crime. If no Watch Program exists in your community, your local police department can help you set one up.

We're all concerned about home safety. The financial and emotional costs of having your home broken into can be devastating. That's why it's important to reduce your risk by taking certain steps to protect yourself and your home. After all, burglary is a crime of opportunity. Reduce the opportunity and you'll reduce the chances of becoming a victim.

Here are just a few of the steps you can take to keep your home safer and more secure.

Keep trees and shrubs well-maintained so they don't block views of entrances or windows, or offer an ideal place for thieves to hide. Your home and grounds should be easily visible from the street.

Make sure your fence isn't too high, so neighbours can view your yard and police patrols can view anything unusual on your property. You can also install a warning buzzer on the fence. To alert you when someone enters the property.

Lights

Lights are an effective deterrent. Keep your grounds and home well lit--without drawing attention. Keep lights out of reach and protected, so they can't be broken or tampered with.

Mounted flood lights aimed along the wall can light a large area. Aim lights downward so they don't cast shadows and keep bushes or trees well pruned so they don't block light.

Inside your home, put exterior light switches near a window so that you can see into the yard as you turn on the light.

Install motion sensor lights so that you're alerted when someone is near your property.