

Staying Safe Practical Tips for Personal and Home Safety

When you're Away

Arrange for a trusted neighbour or friend to pick up your mail and do other things to make your home look occupied like shovelling snow, mowing the lawn, or moving your car from one spot to another in the driveway.

Cancel newspapers so they don't pile up, or arrange for Canada Post to hold your mail.

Put interior lights and radios on timers.

Don't provide too much information on your answering machine--you don't want people to know you're away or that you live alone.

Overall Security

Become familiar with Neighbourhood Watch or the Block Watch program in your community. Neighbours looking out for each other is one of the most effective ways to prevent crime. If none exists in your community, contact your local police agency. They'll help you start one.

Keep records of valuables by recording serial numbers, marking items with an engraving pen, and using photographs or video to identify your belongings.

Make sure there aren't multiple copies of your keys in circulation. Change locks if you have just bought a home. Never give keys out to service people and never tag them with personal information, such as your name and address. Never put spare keys under floor mats or flower pots.

Aside from being a friend, a dog is one of the most effective ways to deter burglars.

If you do come home and notice something suspicious, such as a broken window or lock, don't go in. Go to a neighbour's home and call the police. If you notice a break-in has occurred after you've entered, don't touch anything. Leave immediately and call the police.



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.