

## TIP SHEET



# Repeat Burglaries

## Homes & Businesses

Did you know that victims of residential burglaries are 12 times more likely to be re-burglarized in the next month, according to a Canadian study? This is part of a world-wide trend known as “repeat victimization” or “revictimization” for short.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Victimization is a good predictor of future victimization and “repeats” happen quickly; half the time within seven days of the first occurrence.

### HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

Normally criminals use the environment to help select the targets they choose. They do this by looking for good and bad environmental cues.

Good cues, from the criminal's perspective, include papers and flyers that aren't picked up, over grown landscaping and open garages, to name a few. Bad cues to a criminal include, unobstructed sight lines with witness potential, an active Neighbourhood Watch and signs that the residence is occupied, even when it's not. Examples of the latter include the use of interior lights and properly maintained homes.

In the case of burglars who have committed a previous break-in, the selection process changes. Now, the burglar weighs the same environmental factors with the knowledge that was gained from the previous break-in. This includes the ease with which entry occurred, the amount of valuables left behind, and the amount of valuables likely to be replaced. In the event that significant steps are not taken to change the environment, the scenario may repeat.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT A SECOND ATTACK?

Burglars, like most people, tend to travel familiar routes, whether they're engaged in criminal activity or not. Knowing this, it is easy to influence the burglar's decision by altering those factors that attracted him to your property in the first place.

In some cases this will be obvious, such as pruning or removing large overgrown shrubs that provide cover near entry points (see Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Tip Sheet).

In other cases it will not be so obvious, and may require risk management techniques, such as marking your valuable property (see Operation Provident Program) or improving your forced entry resistance (see Home Security Hardware Tip Sheet).

Regardless of which crime prevention techniques are required, it is important to objectively look at your property, and limit the crime opportunities around your home or business.

A property that fails to attract the attention of a burglar is a property that won't be entered.



### PREVENTING REPEAT BURGLARIES

#### DO

- Stand back and critically look at your property, as if you were the offender.
- Address the obvious factors that may have contributed to this crime.
- Include positive changes to your environment that offenders will take notice. (See next page for residential properties.)
- Advise your neighbours of the break-in and ask for their assistance in watching your property during the next few months. Also, pay extra attention to their homes.
- Make sure your home looks occupied, even when it's not.

#### DON'T

- Just repair/replace the damaged area.
- Be complacent once the insurance has settled.
- Conspicuously dispose of replacement packaging in the garbage.
- Believe that your crime prevention efforts will be in vain.



**TIP SHEET**

**Repeat Burglaries - Page 2**

If you require professional, unbiased advice, contact your nearest:

- Community Police Station
- Local Crime Prevention Association
- OPP Rural & Agricultural Crime Team (RACT), (705) 329-7679

<b>CUES (NOT IN ORDER)</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>PREDICTED EFFECT</b>
Dog	No Dog	Attractor
	Dog barking loudly	Deterrent
Lighting	Dark	Attractor
	Bright	Deterrent
Alarm	No alarm	Attractor
	Good alarm on house	Deterrent
Occupancy - Residence	Lights / TV / Radio Off	Attractor
	Lights / TV / Radio On	Deterrent
Mark Your Property (See Mutual Protect Program)	You have not "advertised" your participation in the "Mutual Protect" program	Attractor
	You have participated in the "Mutual Protect" program & posted the free Mutual Protect stop signs on your windows and doors	Deterrent
Doors and Windows	Doors and windows are old and weak	Attractor
	Doors and windows are sturdy and solid	Deterrent
Locks	Locks on doors are old and weak	Attractor
	All doors and windows have the best locks available	Deterrent
Garage	Garage is very old and is unlocked	Attractor
	Garage looks new and is securely locked	Deterrent
Fence	Access to rear of property is unrestricted	Attractor
	Street access to rear of house is protected by a 6 foot fence and all gates are locked	Deterrent
Garden	House can hardly be seen as it is surrounded by trees and bushes	Attractor
	House is well exposed and landscaping does not screen doors or windows	Deterrent
Neighbourhood Watch	The street is not is a "Neighbourhood Watch" area	Attractor
	The street is in a sign posted "Neighbourhood Watch" area	Deterrent
Screen Door	There is NO screen door	Attractor
	The house has a screen door	Deterrent