



## **Medina Township Police Department**

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<http://mtpd.medinatownship.com/>

**David L. Arbogast, Chief of Police**

### **Residential Crime Prevention Tips**

The Medina Township Police Department would like to remind residents of tips they can use to reduce becoming a victim of a burglary to your home. There are many things you can do to protect your home from crime - and give yourself some peace of mind!



#### **Burglary Prevention Tips While At Home**

Your home is your castle - don't let it be a target for criminals. Most burglars look for easy targets.

- ✓ Always keep your doors locked - even when you're home. This includes your vehicles.
- ✓ Install sturdy doors, door frames and hardware.
- ✓ Use deadbolt locks.
- ✓ Secure sliding glass doors by placing a broomstick or steel rod in the track.
- ✓ Keep the area around your house well lit. This will discourage criminals.
- ✓ Position outdoor lights carefully. Put them out of reach so bulbs can't be easily broken or unscrewed. Aim lights at garage and shed doors, entryways and ground level windows.
- ✓ Consider motion sensor floodlights and photoelectric lights that automatically turn on at dusk and off at dawn.
- ✓ Keep plants trimmed - overgrown bushes can cover windows and doorways, giving burglars a hiding place.
- ✓ Consider an alarm system. It can offer extra protection, especially for people who live alone, are away often or have lots of valuables. Please remember however - alarms can give you a false sense of security. They are meant to be used with other security measures, not in place of them.
- ✓ Store ladders, tools and any other outside objects that can be used to assist in home entry in a locked shed or garage.
- ✓ Don't automatically open your door when someone knocks. Use your peephole. Ask service people to slip their identification under the door or call their office to double-check if you are not expecting them.
- ✓ Don't allow strangers into your home, even if they are hurt or say they need help. Keep the door locked and call the police for them.
- ✓ Find good hiding places in your home for your valuables, do not use typical places that are easily accessed.
- ✓ Limit the amount of cash you keep in your home and store it in a creative hiding place.
- ✓ Keep an inventory of your valuable possessions including a description of items, serial numbers, a photograph or video of those valuables, heirlooms and antiques etc.
- ✓ Be an alert homeowner and neighbor. If you see a stranger on a neighbor's property, or if you see a vehicle you don't recognize backed up in a neighbor's driveway or parked in an alley, don't hesitate to call the police.

## Protect Your Residence While You Are Away

If you are away from your residence for an extended period of time, here are some tips to help protect your home:



- ✓ Ensure that all the locks for your doors and windows are in good working order well in advance of your planned trip.
- ✓ Make your residence look occupied.
- ✓ Don't talk about vacation plans in public areas, such as the beauty shop, shopping mall or car rental office.
- ✓ Keep in mind, in this day of social media, be very careful not to post too much information about you being gone or where you are at while you are away.
- ✓ Never leave a message on your home answering machine stating you are away.
- ✓ Look into using timers for your lights, television or radio to give the impression that someone is home. Set the timers up in different rooms and at different times to create the illusion that your residence is still occupied.
- ✓ Close curtains or blinds to prevent thieves from taking inventory of your personal belongings and seeing the home's layout.
- ✓ Do not let newspapers or mail pile up while you are away. Place a hold on these items or have someone collect them for you while you are away.
- ✓ Before you leave, double check and make sure all your doors and windows are locked before you head out.
- ✓ If you will be gone for an extended period of time, make arrangements to have your lawn cut while you are gone in the spring, summer or fall. In the winter, arrange for someone to clear your driveway or sidewalk of any snow accumulation.
- ✓ If possible, have someone you trust check in on your residence while you are away.
- ✓ Contact the Township Police Dept. to let them know you will be out of town, with dates and emergency contact numbers. The Medina Township police department offers a Vacation Watch Program which is designed to be an extra security measure to help reduce the potential of burglary while you are away from your residence for an extended period of time. There is a vacation watch form on our website that you can fill out and submit or you can e-mail or contact the police department to advise them as well.



**Most importantly... don't hesitate to call the police to investigate suspicious circumstances, unusual people, or strange noises. It's always better to be safe than sorry.**

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