



A Cop's Guide to Preventing Burglaries

Detective Justin Elliott

Prevent Residential Burglaries

Don't Facebook, Instagram, or Tweet vacation plans | Wait until you return from vacation to share those awesome photos online. Social media reaches far and wide and it's a bad idea to advertise that you are away.

Purchase timers for televisions, stereo equipment, and lamps | If you're on vacation, set electronics on timers to make your house appear occupied. Program these items to turn on at the same time you would typically be home.

Don't leave items in your front yard | Have your newspapers and mail delayed while you are on vacation. Or ask a trusted neighbor to gather the mail and bring your trashcans in.

Close your garage door | Potential thieves will often walk through a neighborhood and look for open garage doors. Tools, sporting equipment, electronics, etc. are often clearly visible from the street when there is an open garage. Even if you are working in the yard, those items can disappear quickly. Make it a routine to close your garage door and lock man doors.

Consider cameras | Several models are available and offer installation with hardwire or WiFi/Bluetooth for about \$100 or less. Even a simple hunting trail camera could work. Cameras discretely positioned are helpful to deter and to solve crime.

Keep your property clean and illuminated | Leaving bikes, scooters, coolers, etc. in your front yard overnight can be an invitation for criminals. Trim hedges and trees to create more visibility.

Prevent Vehicle Burglaries

Lock your vehicles | The myth that if someone really wants to get inside your vehicle they will may be true (we call it a 'smash and grab'), however crooks rarely do it because it's noisy and neighbors will call the police if they hear glass shattering. Make it a nightly routine to check your vehicle locks before you go to bed.

Do not leave high dollar items in vehicles | Wallets, tablets, laptops, tobacco, credit cards, purses, etc. are targeted and are easy for burglars to carry or conceal. It is especially important to remove firearms from unoccupied vehicles.

General tips

Photograph valuables (electronics, jewelry, etc.) and their serial numbers | Make it a yearly routine to photograph the serial numbered items in your house. Store the information on an external drive or a trusted cloud-based site.

Get to know your neighbors | Knowing which vehicles look unusual in an area and calling police dispatch may help prevent or solve crimes. Don't hesitate to call us, we will respond and investigate. Try to get a general description of the vehicle - car/truck, color, license plate, number of occupants, direction of travel - are helpful, but don't put yourself in danger.

If you are the victim of a burglary, please minimize your contact with any potential evidence left on scene. If there is the possibility for physical evidence to be collected we will collect it.

Program (208) 377-6790 into your phone | This is the non-emergency dispatch phone number for all of Ada County. Dispatch will send the right help at the right time.

Do NOT hesitate to give us a call! If you see or hear something suspicious call immediately, regardless of the time of day or night. We provide services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you don't call then we may not know about the issue. We would rather you call and it be nothing than let a criminal victimize you or your neighborhood.

Resources

Ada County Crime Mapper | To access the Crime Mapper, visit adasheriff.org and click the 'Crime Map' at the left side of the screen. Simply type in your address and check the boxes of the crime types listed below. The incidents on the map reflect activity in the last three months and show reports from the Ada County Sheriff's Office, Boise Police Department, and the Meridian Police Department.

Community Relations Officer | If you have any questions or concerns that do not require immediate law enforcement response, please contact Nicole Carr at ncarr@adacounty.id.gov or (208) 577-3775. If you will require police assistance, please call 911 or the non-emergency number at (208) 377-6790. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates.