



SAFETY TIPS FOR THE PUBLIC from the MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPT.

Tips to Avoid a Car Burglary or Theft

1.) Lock your doors, roll up your windows.

Suspects often look for unlocked cars, as well as sheds and garage doors.

2.) Turn off your car.

Never leave your car running or left unattended and take your keys out of the ignition.

3.) Take your valuables.

Don't leave valuables in the vehicle, or in plain sight. Even change in a cup holder can attract a thief. Police also note that it's important to keep personal documents, checkbooks, and driver's licenses in your possession at all times.

4.) Hide your things.

If you can't bring everything with you, hide it in the trunk, under the seat or out of view.

5.) Keep your keys with you.

If someone has access to your home who you don't want to drive your vehicle, make sure the keys are not available.

6.) Park in secure areas.

Keep your vehicle in the garage or in the driveway. Try to avoid parking in the street if possible. Also, park in well-lit areas or a section with motion lights.

7.) If you have a car alarm, don't forget to activate it.

If you don't have one, consider getting one.

8.) Get a vehicle locator.

For stolen vehicles, consider having some type of vehicle locator installed, such as LoJack.

9.) Report anything suspicious.

If anything looks concerning or out of the norm, contact your local police department. There are also anonymous tip lines you can access to protect yourself but still get out info to reduce crime.

Also, if your property has surveillance cameras that capture any car thefts or burglaries, contact police.

Tips to Avoid a Home Burglary

- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

Don't Tempt a Thief:

- Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping."

Locks...Get the Best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Windows:

- Most windows can be pinned for security.
- Drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame - place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.
- **If you have a home alarm system, use it!** *Activate your alarm system* — Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.
- Many individuals have alarm systems but do not arm them because it is inconvenient. Many burglars know this and will not be deterred by a window sticker or sign indicating that the home has an alarm system.

If Your Home Is Broken Into:

If you return to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor's phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other “secret” hiding places - burglars know where to look for hidden keys.

- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home — this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number with an engraver you can borrow from your precinct. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.