



City of Columbia Police Department



Home and Neighborhood Safety Tips

- Good locks, simple precautions, neighborhood alertness and common sense can help prevent most property crimes

Locks, Doors, and Windows

- Install good deadbolt locks in your doors, and use them. (About half of burglars enter through unlocked doors and windows)
- Use double-key deadbolts, and remove the key from the lock
- Make sure outside doors, including the one between your house and garage, are solid, 1 3/4 inch metal or wood and fit tightly in their frames. Hinges should be inside
- Secure sliding glass doors with locks
- Lock double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail into a hold drilled at a downward angle through the top of each sash

Outside

- Trim back shrubbery that hides doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb to second story windows
- Make sure all porches, entrances and yards are well lighted
- Keep the neighborhood up. Dark alleys, litter and rundown areas attract crime

Key Sense

- Do not hide house keys in mail boxes, planters or under doormats
- Do not put personal identification on key rings
- Leave only your ignition key with mechanics or parking attendants
- If you lose the keys to your home or move, change the locks immediately

Going Away?

- Make your home appear occupied when you go out-leave lights on and the radio playing
- Keep your garage door closed and locked
- Use timing devices to turn inside lights on and off
- If you will be gone several days, arrange to have the mail and papers stopped or picked up. Half of all home burglaries occur during the day when alert neighbors could spot and report the thieves

Columbia Police Department would also encourage citizens to contact the Crime Prevention Unit to schedule a burglary assessment. The assessment involves a Crime Prevention Officer responding to the physical location of the home or business and inspecting the physical security measures in place. For more information about a burglary assessment or other crime preventive tips please call 803-545-3555 or visit the Columbia Police Department's website at www.columbiapd.com.