

Burglary Prevention Tips for Radnor Township Residents



As many Radnor residents prepare to enjoy August vacation, the Radnor Police Department offers the following tips to remove burglary opportunities at your residence. As always, should you have concerns or see something concerning, please call 911.

When leaving your home for short or extended periods of time The Radnor Police Department strongly suggests that you register your residence under the police departments' Vacant House Watch Program. When vacated, a Radnor Police Officer will conduct an exterior security check of your residence daily. You may register your home on-line at www.radnor.com and use the search term "Vacant House Watch Program" in the search box or you may call the police department's administration hotline at 610-688-0503 and register by phone.

In addition to registering for the Vacant House Watch Program, homeowners should practice prevention thereby reducing the risk of becoming a victim of a residential burglary.

- Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. An open window or door is an open invitation for burglars. Thieves are also quick to spot weak locks that may be easily forced open. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three-inch screws. All windows should have window locks.
- Secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or a wooden dowel rod in the track and install vertical bolts. This will help prevent burglars from forcing the door open or lifting it off the track.
- Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.
- Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. Make your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, to help deter criminals.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit. Installing low voltage outdoor lighting is a cost-effective way to discourage intruders as well as highlight a house.
- Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate. You can also ask a neighbor to park in your driveway or parking place to make it appear that you are present.
- Do not publicize on social media platforms prior or during vacation as it draws attention to your vacant home. It is best to make social media posts AFTER you have returned home.
- Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal, everyday appearance in your residence.

- Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. A message that you will return at a certain time leaves your home vulnerable in the interim.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. Large and ornate hedges may be beautiful, but they also provide a hiding place for burglars who need only a minute to break in through a window or door.
- Participate in the Radnor Townwatch program by emailing radnortownwatch@radnor.org. An alert community is a safe community.
- Print a form to aid with inventory of your property.

Every resident should consider taking the following steps to promote security and safety in the home:

Doors

- Use a solid core or metal door for all entrance points
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a 1-inch throw bolt
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, knob-in-lock set with a dead-latch mechanism
- Use a heavy-duty, 4 screw, strike plate with 3-inch screws to penetrate a wooden door frame
- Use a wide-angle 160° peephole mounted no higher than 58 inches

Windows

- Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices
- Block accessible windows open no more than 6 inches for ventilation
- Make sure someone cannot reach through an open window and unlock the door
- Make sure someone cannot reach inside the window and remove the blocking device
- Use anti-lift devices to prevent window from being lifted out

Lighting

- Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy
- Exterior lighting should allow 100- feet of visibility
- Use good lighting along the pathway and at your door
- Use light timers or photo-cells to turn on/off lights automatically
- Use infra-red motion sensor lights on the rear of single-family homes

Alarm Systems

- Alarm systems are effective deterrents with visible signage
- Alarm systems to be properly installed, programmed, and maintained
- Alarm systems need to have an audible horn or bell to be effective
- Make sure your alarm response call list is up to date
- Instruct your neighbor how to respond to an alarm bell