

WATCHOUT



DELHI TOWNSHIP POLICE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Summer 2010

Burglary Prevention.....

Each year in the U.S., there are more than five million home burglaries. Most of which are preventable. The risk of being burglarized can be greatly reduced by taking simple steps to make your home more difficult to enter and less enticing to would-be burglars. Remember..... the greatest weapons in the fight to prevent burglaries are light, time and noise.

Light:

- Make sure that exterior lights are mounted out of reach so that burglars can't easily unscrew the bulbs.
- Consider buying motion sensitive lights, which are available at relatively low prices.
- Use a variable light timer to activate lights inside your home.
- Trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows so burglars can't hide in the shadows.

Time:

Make it time consuming for a burglar to break into your home by:

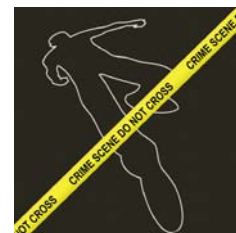
- Installing deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Installing double key locks in doors which contain glass. This will keep a burglar from being able to open the door simply by breaking the glass and reaching through. (Note: Be sure to keep the key in a designated place so that everyone in the house can get out in the event of a fire.
- Placing additional locks on all windows and patio doors.

Noise:

- Get a dog. You don't need a large attack dog; even a small dog creates a disturbance that burglars would prefer to avoid.
- Consider having someone care for your dogs in your home while you're away, instead of boarding them.
- If you can afford it, install an alarm system that will alert neighbors of a burglar's presence. Purchase a system that will summon local police directly.

Other Tips to Prevent Break-Ins.....

- Think like a burglar. "Case" your home the way a burglar would and look for easy ways to enter your home.
- Be sure valuables such as guns, electronic devices and artwork are not visible from the street.
- Be sure to lock up ladders and tools which could be used to break into your home.
- Work together with your neighbors. Organize a Neighborhood Watch and let your neighbors know when you will be away for an extended period.
- While on vacation, have someone pick up your newspapers and mail; so that they do not accumulate and alert burglars of your absence.
- Display your house number conspicuously and have it well laminated. This will help police and emergency personnel find your home quickly.
- Notify your police department that you will be on vacation so that they will keep an extra eye on your home.



Just in Case.....

Sometimes, all your efforts won't stop a determined burglar. It's wise to take some precautions that will help you get your property back should a criminal successfully break into your home:

- Make a list of your belongings (be sure to keep receipts, especially for expensive items like stereos and computers). Be sure to update the list periodically.
- Keep copies of your inventory list and receipts in a safe deposit box or with a friend. (This is also important in the event of a house fire.)
- Photographing and/or videotaping your possessions is a convenient way to keep a record of what you own.
- Engrave your valuables with an identification or mark to deter a burglary and to prove ownership should the article be stolen and recovered by the police.
- Be sure you have the right coverage. You may need to purchase additional coverage to protect special items like expensive jewelry or rare antiques.
- If you don't own your home, seriously consider buying a renter's policy. Your landlord will generally not be responsible for your possessions.



Staying Home Alone.....

A lot of kids stay home alone while their parents are at work or running errands. Sometimes this can be scary, but it doesn't have to be. Here are some things you can do to stay safe when home alone:

- **Don't let anyone know you are home alone.** If a stranger knocks at your door, don't answer it. If someone calls and asks for your mom, say "she can't come to the phone right now" and ask to take a message. Remember not to brag about staying home alone – you don't want other kids to try to take advantage of your empty house.
- **Lock it up.** Learn how to lock and unlock all doors and windows. That way no one can get in, but you can get out if you need to.
- **Know your numbers.** Learn your phone number (including area code), address (even your zip code), your mom or dad's work and cell phone numbers, and the phone number of an adult who lives nearby and can help you quickly in an emergency.
- **Check in with your parents.** Ask your parents for permission before you go anywhere, and call to tell them when you get home. If your parents know where you are all the time, they'll know where to look for you if they need to.
- **Practice what to do in emergencies.** Practice deciding whether to call 911, a neighbor, or your parents along with the information to give when making the call.
- **Choose a safe house.** With your parents, ask a neighbor if you can go to his or her house if you need help fast.
- **Be alert.** If something doesn't look right when you arrive home, like a broken window or open door, don't go inside your house. Go to your safe house and ask for help.

**For information on the Blockwatch Program
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