

VACATION CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Vacation is a time for fun and enjoyment. You can make each trip carefree and enjoyable by taking a few simple steps to reduce the chance of burglary and/or vandalism to your home. A vacant house, or one that appears to be unoccupied, is an appealing target for a burglar.

- Ensure door and window locks function properly - use them.
- Give your house a lived-in appearance. Place automatic timers on several lights, a radio, and a television. Set the timers so that the lights and appliances turn on and off at random times.
- Leave shades and blinds in a position that you would normally leave them.
- Arrange for a trusted neighbour or friend to pick up mail or other items delivered to you while you are away. Consider stopping newspaper delivery.
- Ask someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves, shovel snow and maintain the yard.
- Have a neighbour or friend check both inside and outside the house every few days.
- Ask your neighbour to use your driveway and place your garbage cans at the curb while you are away.
- Leave up-to-date emergency contact information for your neighbour or friend.
- Turn the ringer on your telephone to low or off. Do not leave your lights on 24 hours a day.
- Consider taking valuables to a bank safety deposit box.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages; leave a normal message on the machine.
- Set security alarm (if applicable). Ensure person watching your home has the security alarm code and password.

Your best weapon is your brain. Use common sense, imagination, and good judgment.