



# Crime Prevention Tips

## Stop Thief

### Tips for Protecting your Belongings



## Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

Robbery is a crime of opportunity. Why allow yourself to be a victim when you can take steps to protect yourself and your valuable possessions?

Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) believes that no one should make it easy for thieves to commit crimes. **Don't tempt thieves!** Here are some simple steps you can take to protect yourself, your home and your car:

### At Home

- Always keep doors locked – an open door is an open invitation for a thief.
- Change the locks whenever you move into a new house. Deadbolt locks offer the most protection.
- Make sure your home's exterior doors are solid. Secure them with good double-barrel locks that cannot be opened without a key, even from the inside.
- Install exterior lighting and motion detectors around your house. Lights will reduce the darkness a burglar finds useful. Mount them out of reach to prevent tampering.
- Secure the door that leads into your house from the garage just as well as all other exterior doors.
- Consider installing a peephole in your front door. This will allow you to see who is knocking before you open the door.
- Secure sliding glass doors and windows. Drill a hole into the sliding track of the window or door and install screws, leaving the screw heads showing a bit, or place a metal bar or length of wood along the track grooves.
- Consider installing metal grills over your basement windows.
- If you have a mail slot in your door, seal it and replace it with an external mailbox.
- Give your home a "lived-in" look when you are on vacation. For example, use a timer to set lights to turn on and off.
- Install an alarm system in your home.

### Develop good security habits

- Develop a routine – make sure doors and windows are locked and your alarm system is armed even if you are going to be out of the house for just a few minutes.
- Don't hide your keys in so-called secret places outside your home.
- Don't carry house keys along with other pieces of identification that would allow a would-be burglar to learn your address.
- Leave the radio on, preferably tuned to a station airing call-in shows, when you go out.

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**More crime prevention tips: [www.bccpa.org](http://www.bccpa.org)**



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#### IN PUBLIC

- Never leave valuables, especially cell phones and laptop computers, in plain view inside your vehicle. Always place valuables in the trunk.
- Place a hand on your purse when you are walking, instead of letting it dangle from your shoulder. Keep purses or bags containing valuables securely closed.
- Never leave your purse, wallet or shopping bags unattended in a department store change room.
- Put your purse, bag or wallet out of sight when you are at the office. Avoid leaving valuables in a coat or jacket hanging by the door.
- Use a strong lock to secure your locker at the gym or fitness club. Don't keep valuable items in your locker.

#### Proper Insurance Coverage

As well as taking every precaution to prevent theft, be sure that you have adequate insurance coverage for theft and break-ins.

Making a home inventory is fun and easy if you download the free **Know Your Stuff** software from IBC's website at [www.ibc.ca](http://www.ibc.ca). The software allows you to upload digital pictures and provides you with the option to store your information in a secure location.

#### KNOW YOUR STUFF!

Unfortunately, sometimes the worst happens: thieves succeed in stealing valuables, and you have to make an insurance claim.

- Be prepared: Create a detailed home inventory that itemizes all of your belongings, room by room.

#### KNOW YOUR POLICY

- Make sure your insurance covers all of your possessions.
- Do you require a special insurance rider covering the full value of your jewellery, your cameras or your collections? Check with your insurance provider.

Even if you are unlucky enough to be robbed, if you have prepared a home inventory, you will be in better shape when the time comes to make an insurance claim.

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