



HOME SECURITY

Building Safe Neighbourhoods

Crime Trends Report 2005, states that property crimes (includes break and enters, vehicle theft, and theft from vehicles) represented 52% of Criminal Code offences reported to police.

Police alone cannot effectively combat property crime. This community problem needs the community to act together for a solution.

A contributing factor to criminal activity in our community is the loss of neighbourhood cohesiveness. The connection between residents and their community needs to be re-established.

Building Safe Neighbourhoods is a Community Effort

Get to know your neighbours and their habits. Good neighbours will look out for each other. Report any suspicious people or activities to police.

Become involved in Block Watch or Crime Free Multi-Housing, to prevent crime and nuisance activity, and build awareness around safe communities. Apartment and condominium residents are encouraged to become actively involved with their resident and strata councils.

Conduct a home security check with your neighbours to provide feedback on each others' homes, making them a safer place to live. Please contact your local police to see if a home security check program is available.

Home Security and Safety Tips

✓ Be a "Hard Target" for thieves

■ **No Spare Keys:** never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat, in a flowerpot, or behind a brick.

■ **Solid Doors:** check that your front and back doors are made of solid wood or metal.

■ **Clear View:** trim trees and shrubs so doors and windows are visible from the street.

■ **Lock Up Tools & Ladders:** put in a locked shed or garage, to prevent use by thieves.

✓ Be prepared, even if secure

■ **Safety Deposit Box:** keep valuables and personal documents in a safety deposit box.

■ **Valuables at Home:** don't store valuables all in one place, particularly in the bedroom, as this is the first place thieves will look.

■ **Record Serial Numbers:** all appliances and electronics. Borrow an engraver from your local Community Police Office to mark items with driver's licence number & province.

■ **Photograph Possessions:** take photographs of all your valued possessions.

■ **Avoid Strangers:** if a stranger asks to use your phone, place the call for them. Never let them into your home.





Tips for Safe Apartment Living

1. **Last Name Only:** do not put your salutation (Mr., Mrs., Miss.) or your first name on the intercom panel or mailbox.
2. **Avoid Entrapment Areas:** request that windows be installed on doors leading to stairwells, parking lot, & common areas.
3. **Remove Door Signs:** request removal of labels from common areas, such as "Storage," "Laundry Room," and "Office".
4. **Storage Lockers:** do not store valuable items in your storage locker.
5. **Underground Parking:** when entering and leaving the underground parking, ensure that gate doors close behind you.
6. **Report Malfunctions:** elevators, locks, lights, doors, etc to the resident manager.
7. **Access Control:** if you don't feel comfortable opening the door – then don't.
8. **Locks & Key Control:** know who has keys to the apartment, get receipts for keys, limit the number of key copies, use a deadbolt.

Keep Yourself Safe at Home

✓ Really trust your instincts

Know the Person: before you open the door to a stranger, verify who is there, use a peephole or verbally confirm the identity. If you don't feel comfortable opening the door – don't.

Be Suspicious of Strangers: unexpected salesperson or repair company could be a potential burglar checking your possessions and security measures.

Ask for Identification: always ask & insist on credible ID, if needed call the company to confirm the identity of the individual.

✓ Check your entry points

Lock Doors & Windows: get into the habit of keeping your doors & windows locked, even when you are at home. These give thieves the most accessible entry points into a home

Use Peepholes: equip all exterior doors with wide-angle, 180 degree, door-viewers (peepholes). These let you see who is at your door before you open it.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THESE RESOURCES:

- **Block Watch Society of B.C.** 1-877-602-3358 or www.blockwatch.com
- **BC Crime Prevention Association** – 1-888-405-2288 or www.bccpa.org
- Your local crime prevention or policing unit – see your local telephone directory
- To view an online home security checklist visit www.saanichpolice.ca/prevention/blockwatch/checklist.html

