

Top 8 Tips for Crime Prevention 2008 (#3 in a series)

Protect your home's contents

Everyone can help protect the contents of their homes from theft and make it easier for police to return stolen property to its rightful owner — it takes just a few precautions. Here's how to do it.

#1: Identify your valuables

Mark your valuables with some kind of identification. An engraving pen is often the most effective way to do this, because it's easily visible to police — this makes returning stolen property to its owner a lot faster. A note of caution, however: never use your Social Insurance Number to mark valuables, because the thief can then use the number to steal your personal identity.

#2: Keep records

Record the serial number, make and model of all valuable items such as electronics.

#3: A picture is worth a thousand words

Make a visual record of your home's contents: you can use photographs, videotapes or digital recordings of valuables and of entire rooms.

#4: Go off-site

Keep all of these records at a site away from your home, such as a safety deposit box. In case your home is broken into or there's a disaster like a fire or flood, you'll have excellent records to show police and your insurance company.

#5: Be discreet

When you buy big-ticket items such as electronics, take the cardboard boxes to the recycling depot — don't put them out on garbage day, because they advertise that you've just purchased something new and valuable.

#6: Read the fine print

Check your insurance policy annually, to ensure that it covers the replacement cost of your home and its contents. Pay special attention to exclusions for higher-value items such as jewellery, computers and sports equipment: talk to your insurance agent if needed about additional coverages for these items.

#7: Protect your valuables

Keep your blinds or curtains closed at night, so that people can't see what's inside your home — otherwise, burglars can stroll past on a "window shopping" expedition.

#8: Stay alert

Guard against "snatch and grab" crimes — don't leave items where they're easily picked up. Open garage doors, for example, often invite people to snatch bicycles, lawnmowers or even cars from inside.

For more information about residential security and Crime Prevention information, contact your District Community Liaison Officer.

Public Contact Information:
General Police Line: 266-1234

Public Email Contact:
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