

Top 8 Tips for Crime Prevention 2008 (#2 in a series)

Don't forget your garage

Garages are a favourite target for burglars — they contain valuable items such as vehicles, garden tools and bicycles, and they're often left open and unattended. You can prevent many garage thefts using these simple tips:

#1: Don't give the game away

Put curtains or blinds up at any windows in the garage, so that thieves can't look for items to steal or check to see if your vehicle is there.

#2: Make it secure

The person-door between your house and attached garage should swing inward into the garage, be solid core, and have a deadbolt lock. The same goes for other exterior person-doors on your garage.

#3: Don't give thieves an open invitation

Keep your overhead door closed and your other garage doors locked, even when you're at home — this includes the door between your house and an attached garage.

#4: Check your locks

Secure your person-doors with deadbolts (which need to be operated from outside with a key).

#5: Make it bright

Install lights near your garage to keep the area around doors and windows lit: these can be motion sensor or photo(light)-sensitive, so that they turn on automatically when someone walks past or when the sun sets.

#6: Put up a number

Put your house number on your garage, especially if it opens up into a back alley. This helps emergency personnel to identify which house is yours.

#7: Keep good records

Catalogue your garage's contents, including serial numbers of valuable items and vehicle identification numbers. Taking photographs, videos or digital recordings of contents can also help police and your insurance company if there's a break-in or a fire or flood.

#8: Double-check yourself

Never drive away without checking that your overhead garage door is down. Also check the operation of automatic doors once a month for safety (read your instruction booklet or contact the door's manufacturer for details).

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

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