



Southborough Police Department
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Neighborhood and Home Crime Prevention

Most residential burglars devote little if any time to the advance planning of any specific break-in. Their crimes, for the most part, are *crimes of opportunity*. They pick what appears to be an easy mark. The more you can do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer you are.

The first step in improving overall security is to take a hard look at the security measures already in use in your home. Here are a few key points to remember when doing a check of your house:

Landscaping and Yard Security
Exterior and Interior Lighting
Security Systems
Home Security Survey
Other Home Security Information

Landscaping and Yard Security

Few alterations to your landscaping could be enough to ward off intruders. To avoid detection, intruders target houses surrounded by hedges and shrubs. Although very pleasant to look at, thick bushes and shrubs hamper visibility from the street and neighbors houses. Shrubbery should be trimmed within four (4) feet of any sidewalks, driveways, doors or gates and should be maintained at a height of not more than two (2) feet. Trees should be pruned as to not offer and intruder access to second floor windows. Helpful hints: place large gauge gravel on the ground near windows. The noise caused by intruders walking on it may become a deterrent. Plant spiny (thorny) plants along fences and under windows. This may discourage even the most nimble intruder.

Street Numbers

Street Numbers should be easily visible from the street. Critical time can be saved by emergency responders when street addresses for the house are visible from the street.

Exterior Lighting

It is a known fact, that good lighting is a deterrent to crime. While any lighting will help reduce your risk of becoming a victim, proper lights used correctly will be the most effective deterrent to criminal activity. Lights are important, especially in the rear of the house, where intruders do most of their work. Motion lights are a very effective use of exterior lights.

Interior Lighting

When residents go out for the evening, usually they turn off all the lights, and leave the one by the front door on. This could be a signal for the intruder that no one is home. We suggest that leaving a few lights on and perhaps the radio would be a better deterrent.

Home Security Survey

Do you keep a "Personal Property Inventory List" in a safe place? Personal Property Inventory List would help recover stolen property in the event of a theft. Photos of jewelry and other expensive items would help law enforcement identify stolen property if the burglar tries to fence or sell items locally. Keep all appraisals and personal important papers in a safe properly secured down. Remember...a safe, although heavy, can be lifted and taken if not secured to some sort of foundation.

Home Security Systems

There are many different home security systems out there. Choosing the right one is a matter of personal preference. Please take the time to research the one best suited for your home.

Safety tips at Home

Please remember there are things that resident can to help reduce crimes in your neighborhood.

- Always be observant of your surroundings. Pay attention to your gut feeling if you notice something out of the ordinary.
- Get to know your neighbors. They are always a great extra pair of eyes on your property when you're not home.
- Use the security devices that you have.
- Have emergency numbers near your home phone.
- Be suspicious of people loitering around your neighborhood and call the police when it happens!
- Do not let strangers use your telephone.
- Use a Southborough Police Department Vacation Check form when on vacation.

Should we as residents start a neighborhood watch program?

Neighborhood watch programs are an effective way of keeping watchful surveillance on your neighborhoods. Helping law enforcement identify suspicious behavior, in an expeditious manner, is crucial to maintaining a safe community.

How do we start a Neighborhood Watch Program?

The Southborough Police Department will assist in any way the development of a neighborhood watch program. All we need is commitment and dedication of helpful residents.

- Recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible
- Schedule a meeting with local police
- Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan
- Hold regular meetings and train
- Implement a phone or email tree