



Eaton Police Division

328 N. Maple Street
Eaton, Ohio 45230
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Burglary Prevention Tips

Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for uncut lawns and stuffed mailboxes. In the evening, they look for darkened houses or lights that have been left on too long. The following burglary prevention tips will help to make you and your family safer while also showing you how to become a part of the EPD Team, so that we may serve and protect our community together.

Email the Police Division

Need information about your case?
Need to add items to a burglary report?
Have a question about burglary in general?

Contact the police division at epd@eatonpolice.org, OR visit our website at:
www.eatonpolice.org

The Burglary Basics:

-Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in. Leaving a radio or television on makes you less of a target. Criminals are looking for easy opportunities and most won't even take a chance on breaking into an occupied home.

-Forward your home phone to your cell phone so nobody can call your house to see if you're not home.

-**Never** make posts on Facebook telling people you're out of town or on vacation. Also avoid using the Facebook "Check In" or "Places" feature that gives your current location to people. If people can see you're at the grocery store then they know you aren't home!

-Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.

-Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.

-Keep your garage door closed and locked.

-Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.

-Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.

-Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.

-Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.

-Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

-Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

Don't Tempt a Thief

-Lawn mowers, snow blowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight.

-Always lock your garden sheds and garages.

-Use curtains on garage and basement windows.

-Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping."

Locks...get the best:

-No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.

-Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.

-When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Windows:

- Most windows can be pinned for security.
- Drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame - place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Alarms:

Home Security Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of alarm systems on the market.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.

If Your Home Is Broken Into:

- If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:
- Do not enter** - the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use your cell phone or a neighbor's phone to call the police immediately.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

-Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places; burglars know where to look for hidden keys.

-Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home. This is also a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.

-Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.

-Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call the police immediately.

-Mark your valuables with the last 4 digits of your social security number or your driver's license number with an engraver. If you don't have an engraver you can borrow from the police division. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.

Form a Neighborhood Watch Group:

We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary. We currently work with neighborhood watch groups in the Pheasant Run subdivision and the Maplewood Estates subdivision (St. Clair St. south to Frizzell Avenue.) We are in the process of starting neighborhood watch groups in the Lutheran Drive area and the East Avenue area.

If you'd like more information about our Neighborhood Watch program please contact Sgt. Eric Beeghly at: ebeeghly@eatonpolice.org OR 937-456-5531

Most Importantly:

The **MOST** important thing **YOU** can do is **CALL THE POLICE** to report a **CRIME** or any **SUSPICIOUS** activity. We depend on our citizens to help us be vigilant in the community and there is no such thing as a false alarm or "*wasting our time.*" Reporting suspicious activity is never a waste of our time and it helps us to reduce criminal activity. The more active we are, the more likely we are to prevent crime.

You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes! You can submit anonymous tips on our website:
www.eatonpolice.org

Remember the three L's of Crime Prevention: **LIGHTS, LOCKS & the LAW!**

Light up your residence, lock your doors at all times, and call the Law when you see something suspicious.

