

Burglary Prevention



OAKDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

A common entrance by burglars is through an open overhead garage door. Many valuable items are kept in a garage, including vehicles, which are also often left unlocked. (Remove electronic garage door openers from vehicles parked outside). Most importantly, many burglars who enter the garage do not hesitate to enter the house through an unlocked access door. Some burglaries occur during the overnight hours, when homeowners and their families are sleeping inside.

Tips for preventing home burglaries:

- Lock doors and windows.
- Use a solid core or heavy metal door for all entrance points.
- Use quality, heavy duty, deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw bolt.
- Use a heavy duty strike plates with three-inch screws.
- Secure sliding glass doors.
- Place lights near porches, outside of all doorways, garage doors and points of entry. Dusk to dawn lighting or motion detecting lights are good choices for home security.
- Create the appearance that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. Making your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home.
- Have someone collect mail and newspapers if you are not home.
- Arrange to have someone cut your lawn, plow or shovel your walkways and driveway.
- Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home or provide that information on social media.
- Don't keep valuables in your bedroom. Example: cash and jewelry. Keep your valuables in an unlikely secured place or utilize a safety deposit box.
- Keep high end electronic equipment out of window view. Likewise do not discard electronic equipment boxes curbside for pickup.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. While large, ornate hedges may be beautiful, they also provide areas of concealment for burglars who need only a minute to break in through a window or door.
- Put away and secure bicycles, recreation equipment and tools.
- A dog is a natural biological alarm.
- Get to know your neighbors. Organize a Neighborhood Watch program.

If you choose to purchase an alarm:

1. Display alarm signs as they are a visible deterrent.
2. Make sure it is properly installed, programmed and maintained.
3. Include an audible horn or bell along with the automatic notification of the alarm company.
4. Make sure your alarm response call list is up to date.
5. Instruct your neighbor how to respond to an alarm horn or bell.

Complete a home security survey and identify potential improvements.