



## **“BURGLARY PREVENTION”**



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 make you and your family safer while also showing you how to become a part of the Richland County Sheriff's Department Team – so that we may build unity in the community!

### **Remember the 3 foot, 8 foot rule –**

Shrubs can be a deterrent to getting into the house, but keep them and trees pruned well enough that burglars can't hide there. Keeping tree branches pruned up to 8 feet off the ground and shrubs down to 3 feet. Consider placing thorny shrubs beneath windows; and make sure neighbors can see into your yard.

- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- 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!
- Never leave notes on your door such as “Gone shopping”.
- 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.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows
- Leave blinds open for visibility and as a deterrent to criminals
- Don't use motion detectors; photocell sensors are best for outdoor use.
- Lawn mowers, snow blowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- 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.



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### Continued

- 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.

**If your home is broken into** (if you find an unexplained open/broken window or door):

- Do not enter – the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor’s phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until Sheriff’s Deputies have inspected for evidence.
- Write down license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.