



Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ September 2017

Police Department:

Top 10 Simple Ways to Discourage Break-ins



When thinking about how to prevent break-ins from happening to you, there are a few things you should keep in mind. When thieves break into homes, there's a greater chance of them doing so during the day when many people are at work. Also, around 40 percent of annual household burglaries in the United States are not forced entries, meaning someone was able to walk, climb or crawl inside of houses almost as easily as if the owners left a key in the door [source: Bureau of Justice Statistics].

1. Don't Showboat

Don't leave items lying around the yard that could spark the interest of a would-be burglar. If you buy a new T.V., appliance, or electronics, cut the box up before discarding it. Leaving it on a tree lawn could bring attention to your home. Open your blinds / curtains and see what can be seen from the street. If you can see it so can they.

2. Tricking Burglars

Remember, more break-ins occur during the day when many people are at work. For that reason, when you leave the house, create an illusion that someone's still there. You can leave a light on, along with music or your television for good measure.

3. Secure Sliding Doors and Windows

Sticking a pipe in the track for the sliding door will keep the slider from pushing open if the lock is picked. The same goes for windows, although a simple nail in the door frame could do the trick.

4. Don't Leave a Spare Key Out

If you have to leave it out think of a unique place and use a combination lock box. Here are a few bad places: a fake rock, under the flower pot, or under a door mat. Or leave a spare with a trusted neighbor or nearby friend.



5. Secure Your Yard

Tall shrubs and overgrown trees are welcome hiding places for criminals to wait until the coast is clear to get into your house. Low shrubs in front of windows remove additional covering for thieves if they attempt to break in through one. Cut away any tall tree branches that reach upper story windows.

6. Get Police Help

If you're leaving town for a while, let the police know and request a house watch. We will do a perimeter check of your house a minimum of three times a day.

7. Prepare Before Vacation

Besides the house watch, inform a trusted neighbor(s) to keep an eye on your house. Stop or have someone collect your newspaper and mail. Make arrangements for the grass to be cut if gone for more than a week. In the winter make sure someone plows or shovels the snow.

8. Know Your Neighbors

Getting to know the people you live around is one of the most important safety steps you can take. Closer-knit neighborhoods generally report fewer break-ins because strangers will stick out, and people are more likely to keep a casual eye on other people's security.



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Police Department *(continued)*:

9. Stay Vigilant!

Although it's nice to know you have people watching out for you in your neighborhood, you also need to watch out for yourself. If you aren't paying attention to what you're doing, you could unknowingly be rolling out a red carpet for a burglar to waltz through your front door. Be careful of social media. Most of us are guilty of posting those vacation pictures or checking in on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. That just tells people that there might just be an empty home.

10. Lock it Up

As mentioned earlier 40 percent of break-ins happen without the use of force. That means a lot of people are leaving their houses without locking the doors and windows. Also don't forget to lock your cars in your driveway.



Although we try to make sure the road is covered at all times, there may be instances when you may not see a patrol vehicle for the CHPD for an extended period of time. It is not because the officers are just sitting around drinking coffee and gossiping. Most of the time the reasons for this could be a traffic accident, arrests, building searches, or criminal investigations.

Unfortunately we cannot be in two places at one time so we need your help. The CHPD would like to remind everyone that if you see a suspicious person walking around the neighborhood to please call and inform us. We will go check that person. **You are not bothering us** and we are more than happy to assist you in any way possible.

With the school year back in the swing of things remember to keep an eye on the children walking to and from school. If you see anything unusual, give us a call. Also, remember to stop for buses and the school zone speed limit is 20 MPH.

As always, please feel free to stop and talk to any officer, whether it is to just say hello or inform us of any problems or suspicious behavior. We may not know of all problems within our community. Let's be partners in keeping our community a safe place to live, work, and play.

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 911 *All other calls please use 216-883-6800*

