

## RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

### Crime Prevention Programs

The best way to keep crime out of our neighbourhoods is to keep ourselves involved in crime prevention. Get to know your neighbours and discuss an effective crime prevention strategy for your community.

If something needs doing, do it! If your neighbour is away and you see an obvious invitation to a burglar, do what you can to help: remove mail and papers and help with some minimal lawn and yard maintenance.

#### To Report a Crime:

Regina Police Service .....777-6500  
Emergencies .....9-1-1  
Crime Stoppers .....545-TIPS (8477)  
SaskTel Mobility Cellular .....\*TIPS (\*8477)  
Saskatchewan  
Crime Stoppers.....1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

Victim Services .....777-8660

To Join Neighbourhood Watch .....347-7677

#### Recommended Web Sites:

[www.police.regina.sk.ca](http://www.police.regina.sk.ca)  
[www.crimedoctor.com](http://www.crimedoctor.com)  
[www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/crime\\_prev/](http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/crime_prev/)  
[www.prevention.gc.ca/index.html](http://www.prevention.gc.ca/index.html)  
[www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com)  
[www.privcom.gc.ca](http://www.privcom.gc.ca)  
[www.bankofcanada.ca](http://www.bankofcanada.ca)  
[www.blockparents.ca](http://www.blockparents.ca)



# Residential Security

*Security is YOUR responsibility*



## Regina Police Service

*Dedicated to Building  
a Safe & Caring Community*



## Residential Security

*Thieves and vandals prey on people who don't take preventative measures. Are you doing what you can to protect your family, your home and your property?*

### Residential Break-Ins – a crime of opportunity

- A residential break-in happens every 90 seconds in Canada.
- More than 80 per cent of break-ins occur during daylight hours.
- Burglars don't choose victims randomly – they look for opportunities.
- Most illegal entries are made by amateur burglars without the use of sophisticated tools.
- Most burglars enter through a basement or ground floor door or window.
- Most burglars rely on concealment, speed and force to gain entry to a home.
- Break-ins cost Canadian insurance companies millions of dollars each year in claim payments. This cost is shared by policyholders through increased premiums.

### Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

**Landscaping and architectural design can incorporate simple and inexpensive concepts to improve security in your home and community.**

At home, shrubs and trees should not create blind spots or hiding spots on your property. Walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the proper entrance and away from private areas. Exterior doors should be visible from the street or by neighbours. Sidewalks, doorways and all areas of the yard should be well lit.

In communities, open green spaces and recreational areas should be well lit and visible from nearby homes. Lot, street and house designs should encourage interaction between neighbours, which can deter criminal activity.

## APARTMENT/RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

- Bicycles, lawn mowers, ladders, etc. are kept inside.
- You know your neighbours and watch out for each other's property, or you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch program.

### VACATIONS

- You have stopped all deliveries.
- You have left shades and blinds in their normal positions.
- You have notified your neighbours.
- You have set timers on lights and radios.
- Someone is taking care of your yard.
- Your mail is being held or picked up.

### ADDITIONAL CHECKS

- You keep most of your cash in the bank.
- You keep a list of all valuable property, credit cards and serial numbers in a safe place.
- Valuable property is engraved with your driver's licence number.

Having your home violated is a very traumatic experience. Take the necessary steps to reduce your chances of being a victim of crime by installing a 24-hour monitored alarm system in your home.

Why install a 24-hour monitored alarm system? There is no perfect deterrent to protect your home against a burglar. However, statistics show the chance of having your home broken into is significantly reduced if you have a 24-hour monitored alarm system.

Statistics also show that the amount of property stolen from homes equipped with a 24-hour monitored alarm system is less than that from homes without a monitored alarm system. Burglars just don't have as much time to act when an alarm is activated.

A 24-hour monitored alarm system provides peace of mind and security for your entire family against the possibility of home intrusion whether you're at home or away.

Alarm systems can also monitor smoke, fire, temperature change, carbon monoxide and water escape. Alarms get help there sooner, minimizing damage and danger.

SGI CANADA provides an insurance premium discount to homeowners with a monitored alarm system. Ask your SGI CANADA broker about program details and eligibility.

## Home Security Checklist ✓

Complete this security check on your own residence to find out if your home may be vulnerable to thieves. This survey can also help you evaluate the security risks of a home you plan to purchase or rent.

### DOORS

- Doors have 180° peepholes.
- Inside locks are at least one metre from glass.
- Exterior doors are solid-core.
- Exterior doors have 2.5 cm deadbolts.
- Exterior door hinge pins are non-removable.
- Door jambs are securely fastened.
- Strike plates are secured to door jambs with 6.35 cm (2.5 ") screws.
- Deadbolts extend sufficiently into strike plates.
- Locks have been changed or re-keyed since you have moved in.

### WINDOWS

- Double-hung windows are securely pinned.
- Metal windows and basement windows have auxiliary locks.
- Curtains cover windows completely.
- Window air conditioners are secured from inside.

### GARAGE

- Garage door closes tightly.
- Overhead garage door has quality lock.
- Doors are locked and closed when not in use.
- Remote garage door opener is customized for your garage door.
- Keys are removed from vehicle while it's in the garage.
- Garage light can be turned on from inside the house.

### EXTERIORS

- Shrubs are cut below window level.
- Tree limbs are cut above window level.
- Residence number is visible from the street, and at night.
- All entrances to the house and garage are well lit.

### DOORS

All exterior doors should be of solid-core construction, 4.5 cm thick with a 180° peephole. Door frames should also be of solid construction and have a proper security strike plate. Avoid hollow-core and glass doors. **You should never open the door unless you know who is on the outside.**

Keep your exterior doors locked when you are at home especially when you are working in the yard.

### WINDOWS

Windows pose a definite threat to home security. Install high-quality backup locks on all your windows if they can be pried open easily. There are several types of commercial window locks available to homeowners. Ask a reputable home security supplier which lock is suitable for your needs.

Another reinforcement method is "pinning." Drill a 0.5 cm hole through the inside window frame and into the outside frame. Secure the window by placing a commercial pin or a large nail through the hole. Double-hung windows and sliding aluminum windows can also be pinned.

Basement windows are a common entry point for burglars. Windows hidden by bushes or trees give intruders an ideal place to work. Replace basement windows with a tough, clear, unbreakable plastic that's mar-resistant, or install decorative security bars over glass windows. (Check the building codes in your area to ensure your security bars comply.) **Bar windows from the inside and ensure they open easily in case of emergency.**

Windows that are seldom used should be properly secured with the ability to be opened in the event of an emergency. Remove any bushes, trees or other obstructions (e.g. sheds) that hide windows from view.

### LOCKS

A good lock is very important. The popular key-in-the-knob locks are not very effective. Install a 2.5 cm deadbolt lock on all exterior doors.

Patio doors are popular targets for burglars and thieves, as many of them can be lifted out of their tracks and removed. To prevent this, install metal screws in the door's upper track. These screws will fill the space above the door, preventing it from clearing the lower track.

## RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

Patio doors can also be pinned like windows or locked with a commercial lock.

### FIREARMS

If you have firearms and/or ammunition, ensure that they are stored or are being displayed so they meet the regulations of the Firearms Act. For further information, call 1-800-731-4000.

### COMPUTERS

Computers should be placed away from windows and you should look into the numerous devices available for protecting your CPU and printer. These can be secured with tamper resistant machine screws to protect the memory boards.

### SAFETY PLAN

Have a plan in place in the event an intruder enters while you are home. Decide on an escape route and where you will go. Dial 911 immediately. You may want to identify a safe room in your home where family members can go if an intruder enters while you are home. The room should have a locking device, a phone and (if on the second level) an escape ladder that hooks over the window sill and drops to a safe distance from the ground.

Advertise the fact that all property in your home is marked for identification by placing Operation Identification decals (available from police services or your Neighbourhood Watch group) on your entrance doors and windows.

Record the serial numbers and descriptions of all your valuable property.

### RECOVERY OF STOLEN PROPERTY

Identifiable stolen property can now be recorded on CPIC (a nationwide police database). CPIC allows Canada's police services to readily identify (at any time of day) the owner of marked property that is recovered.

### OTHER SECURITY OPTIONS

If you keep large amounts of money or expensive jewelry at home you should invest in a good quality safe. Other forms of security to keep in mind are alarmed security systems or roll-shutters for windows and doors.

### GARAGE AND VEHICLE PROTECTION

Garages are another popular target for burglars. Keep curtains over your garage windows so thieves can't window shop or check to see if your car is there. Install inward

## APARTMENT/RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

**4. Never disclose your PIN to anyone.** No one from a financial institution or the police will ever ask for your PIN. You're the only person who should know it.

**5. Always conduct your ABM transactions when and where you feel most secure.** If you are uncomfortable about using a particular machine for any reason, do it later or go to another location. Report suspicious activity to the police and the financial institution immediately.

**6. To ensure privacy when conducting on ABM or Interac Direct Payment transaction,** use your hand or body as a shield to prevent others from observing you entering your PIN. Never use an ABM if the machine looks altered or it appears that someone is loitering around the machine watching your activities.

**7. After completing a transaction,** remember to take your card and, if provided, your transaction record.

**8. When making a withdrawal from an ABM,** count the cash received and put it away immediately.

**9. If your card is lost, stolen or is retained by an ABM,** notify your financial institution immediately. Most institutions offer 1-800 telephone numbers and/or 24-hour service for lost or stolen cards.

**10. Robbery rarely occurs at ABMs but if it should happen,** remember that your safety comes first. Always report the incident to the police and to your financial institution.

### IDENTITY THEFT

Every year, thousands of people are victims of identity theft. While recent developments in telecommunications and computer processing make it easier for companies and consumers to reach each other, they can also scatter your personal information more widely, making life easier for criminals. Identity theft is the unauthorized collection and use of your personal information, usually for criminal purposes.

Your name, date of birth, address, credit card, Social Insurance Number (SIN) and other personal identification numbers can be used to open credit card and bank accounts, redirect mail, establish cellular phone service, rent vehicles, equipment, or accommodation, and even secure employment. If this happens you could be left with the bills, charges, bad cheques, and taxes. To learn more about Identity Theft visit the Government of Canada's Privacy Commission's web site dedicated to privacy matters.  
[www.privcom.gc.ca](http://www.privcom.gc.ca)

## APARTMENT/RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

### Don't tip them off!

- ❖ Never leave notes on your apartment door or on the intercom panel indicating your whereabouts or return time - this tells a potential thief how much time they have.
- ❖ When you go out, leave a radio and a light on, or hook them up to a timer.
- ❖ Draw curtains or close blinds after dark. When the curtains are open at night, you can't see out, but others can see in.

## Operation Identification

**Burglars seldom steal valuable merchandise for personal use; they steal items that can be transported and sold easily. Operation Identification discourages burglars before they attempt to break into your home.**

### **What you can do:**

Join Operation Identification through your local police service or contact a crime prevention program like Neighbourhood Watch.

Identify all your valuable property with your driver's licence number by using an engraver, a permanent marker or an invisible ink pen. If you don't have a driver's licence, similar identification can be issued where driver's licences are sold. **(Do not use your social insurance number.)** Small items and jewelry can be photographed beside a clearly marked ruler. Also, the contents of the house can be videotaped and the tape stored in a safety deposit box.

## ABM Security

1. **Your banking card is the key to your account(s).** It is for your use only. Keep your card in a safe place and never "lend" it to anyone, including friends and family members.
2. **Conducting an ABM or Interac Direct Payment transaction** requires both an access card and a corresponding Personal Identification Number (PIN). Protect your PIN, it is your electronic signature. Don't write it down - memorize it.
3. **If you are selecting a PIN, always avoid the obvious** - e.g. street number, telephone number, date of birth etc.

## RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

swinging, solid-core doors with deadbolts on your attached garage door. Use a good padlock for the garage door and keep it locked, even when you are home. If you have an automatic garage door opener, customize your remote to ensure that you are the only one who can open your garage.

### **To avoid vehicle thefts, follow these simple rules:**

- ❖ Close the windows, lock the doors and never leave keys inside the vehicle.
- ❖ Consider an antitheft device such as a steering wheel bar or an alarm.
- ❖ Place valuables in the trunk; do not leave credit cards in your car.
- ❖ Mark your vehicle's stereo equipment with your licence number and keep a record of all vehicle serial numbers.
- ❖ Never hide a spare key under the carpeting or over the sun visor.
- ❖ Park your car in well-lit areas.
- ❖ Do not leave your car unattended with luggage, skis or bikes on the roof rack.
- ❖ Do not mark your keys with your name and address.
- ❖ **Keep your garage door opener with you. A stolen car can lead to a home break-in.**
- ❖ If you are required to leave a key with a parking attendant, leave only your ignition key.
- ❖ Remove all documents (insurance, licence, etc.) from the car when you are not driving. This identification could be stolen and used in other crimes (fraud, home burglary).

### **if your vehicle is stolen ...**

Notify the police immediately and provide the following information: vehicle identification and licence number, year, make, colour and distinguishing marks (dents, accessories, etc.).

### **Going Away!**

Use these tips to protect your home and belongings when you are not there:

- ❖ Tell only those people who need to know that you are going away.
- ❖ Have a trusted person house sit for you, or hire a reliable house-sitting service.
- ❖ Cancel home deliveries of milk and newspapers and do not leave notes for others. Have the post office hold or forward your mail and ask a neighbour to collect "junk mail."

- ❖ Arrange for someone to perform lawn and garden maintenance so your home will look lived in.
- ❖ Have a neighbour arrange drapes and blinds occasionally.
- ❖ Purchase timers for radios, TVs and exterior and interior lights.
- ❖ Turn down the telephone bell as an unanswered telephone usually indicates an empty house.
- ❖ Ask your neighbours to inform the police immediately if they notice anything unusual or suspicious around your home. They should record the licence plates of questionable vehicles.
- ❖ Do not leave a message on your machine telling callers you are away.

#### **Before you leave...**

- ❖ Lock all tools, barbecues and ladders out of sight.
- ❖ Set and test all timing devices.
- ❖ Lock and check all doors and windows.
- ❖ Disconnect the garage door opener.

#### **If a burglary has occurred during your absence...**

- ❖ Do not enter the house in case the intruder is still there. Use a neighbour's phone to call the police immediately!
- ❖ Do not touch anything wait for police to arrive.
- ❖ Have a record of the serial numbers of missing items. Anything without a serial number should be marked with your driver's licence number. This increases your chances of having missing property returned to you.

#### **TELEPHONE SAFETY**

Never give your name, number or address to a caller you don't know, and report any harassing or threatening calls to the police. Never give credit card numbers or information to telephone solicitors. To prevent your name and number from being displayed on outgoing calls, and to prevent the use of call return to your number, have the phone company permanently block this information, or use a temporary block by pressing \*67 before the number (dial 1167 on a rotary phone). **If you receive a harassing or threatening call you can press \*57 immediately after (dial 1157 on a rotary phone) hanging up to trace the call.** Contact your phone company for more information on telephone security options.

## Apartment Security

### **Don't let them in**

- ❖ Never use your intercom to let a stranger into the building, including people who say "parcel delivery," "I forgot my key", or "paper boy". Instruct all tradespeople, delivery people and solicitors to contact the resident manager. Make sure any children and visitors know these rules, too. Remember, you are responsible for any person you let in.
- ❖ Never hold the outer door open for strangers when you come in or go out. Tell them to buzz the person they're visiting or the resident manager or "hang back" to avoid a confrontation.

### **Keep those doors locked**

- ❖ Make a habit of locking the door when you come into your apartment. A thief can steal your valuables in the time it takes to have a shower.
- ❖ Always lock your apartment door, windows and patio doors when you leave, even if you're just going to the laundry room or the mailbox. **The same holds for bedtime.** Use a drop bar to secure sliding glass doors.
- ❖ Make sure all doors with locks are shut behind you after you come in or leave.
- ❖ Never prop open the entrance doors and leave them unattended. If you're moving, post someone at the doors.
- ❖ Have any burnt-out lights, nonfunctional locks or doors, or broken windows replaced as soon as possible.
- ❖ Report lost keys to the resident manager immediately.
- ❖ Never put your identification or address on your apartment or car key rings.
- ❖ Never hide spare keys.
- ❖ If your apartment door doesn't have a deadbolt lock or peephole, it's a good idea to ask the resident manager for permission to have them installed.
- ❖ Use your first initial and last name only, and do not use the title "Ms" or "Miss," etc. on the intercom panel.
- ❖ Have your keys ready as you approach the door.
- ❖ Get to know your neighbours. Then you'll know if someone doesn't belong. Arrange to keep an eye on each other's apartments while you're away.