

Home Security Beyond the Alarm

Toronto Police Services offers the following advice.

We all have the potential to be victims of crime. Each of us can REDUCE THE RISK of our homes/property being victimized by eliminating the opportunity.

Window security

- 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/pin in the hole to secure the window.
- Sliding glass doors/windows can be lifted out of their tracks with relative ease. Install self-tapping screws in the upper track that allow the door/window to slide into place. Place a piece of wood snugly into the bottom track - this will resist lateral forcing.

Door security

- Locks with key holes in the knob are NOT reliable - they can easily be forced
- Doors should be mounted so hinge-bolts are not facing outwards
- Install one-inch deadbolt locks on all exterior doors
- Chain locks are poor security - install a wide angle viewer instead
- Padlocks should be 'heel-and-toe' locking
- If keys are lost or if you move, locks should be changed

Going on vacation

- Inform a neighbour of your departure and return dates
- Where possible, cancel all deliveries
- Arrange to have the lawn cut and walkways cleared
- Use clock timers to activate lights/radios at various intervals
- Have a neighbour pick up newspapers and mail
- Store small valuables in a safe deposit box
- Ensure all entry points are secured, including mail chutes, milk chutes, garage doors and upstairs windows
- DO NOT leave notes indicating you are not at home

If a crime has occurred

- DO NOT enter - the criminal may still be inside
- Use a neighbour's phone and call the police
- DO NOT touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence
- Note the licence number of any suspicious vehicle
- Note the description of any suspicious person(s)

