

PROTECTING YOURSELF AT BROOKSTONE AND BEYOND: SIMPLE TIPS TO KEEPING INTRUDERS AWAY



- *Keep your lights programmed on a timer. Make sure to vary the times they click on so thieves won't notice a pattern and know you're using a timer.*
- *Put a dead-latch on your front door. This inexpensive lock-set keeps a burglar from slipping your door open with a plastic credit card.*
- *Have a neighbor collect mail and newspapers if you go away for an extended period. If you're going to be gone for a really long time, arrange to have the grass cut.*
- *Plant shrubs below ground-level windows, but keep them trimmed. If they grow above the windowsill, they can provide hiding places.*
- *Get a dog. Burglars usually run if they hear a barking dog. A "Beware of Dog" sign is better than nothing.*
- *Leave a radio playing when you're away from home. It helps give your house a lived-in feel. A few toys strewn about the front yard will do the same thing.*
- *Do not leave door keys under flower pots or doormats, inside an unlocked mailbox, over the doorway, or in other obvious places.*
- *The single lock on a garage door is inadequate to keep intruders from prying up the opposite side and crawling in. Use a padlock. Also keep the inside garage door leading into the house locked.*
- *Keep outside lights on at night. Install lights activated by motion. Thieves don't like to be in the spotlight.*

●Engrave your belongings with an electric engraving pen. This helps deter robbery in two ways. First, you discourage the thief since marked property is much more difficult to sell. Second, if a thief does steal your property, it is much easier to catch and prosecute the person, if he or she is caught when discovered with “marked” goods in his or her possession.

Install a security system.

●Don't leave valuables (stereo, computer, jewelry, etc.) where they can be seen from the window. If you don't want to hide everything from sight, consider draperies and blinds.

●Don't leave anything around the yard that might help a burglar get into your house: put away ladders, stackable boxes, or garden tools.

●Secure sliding glass doors. Drill two holes on either end of the doorframe. Screw in two screws so that the sliding door can't be lifted off the track. In addition, wedge a piece of broom handle into the track by the floor. Your local hardware store may be able to help you.

●Basement windows are an easy target, since they're low and usually well hidden. Wedge a steel bar across the window, or install a metal grate.

●Keep your windows and car doors locked.

●Stagger your cars in your driveway. When cars are parked next to one another, it offers a hiding place for possible thieves.

●REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, regardless of how minor it may seem, it may prevent a possible crime in our neighborhood.

●Know your neighbor, learn what's “normal” for them so you will be able to report anything that's not “normal” or suspicious should you ever have to.

●REMEMBER: Prevention is the key.