

Home Crime Prevention Tips

Recently the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has investigated numerous burglary complaints throughout the County. Burglary is a crime of opportunity and by following a few simple steps, the risk of becoming a victim can be greatly reduced.

Simple Prevention Tips (NCPC)

- Keep all doors and windows locked when not at home. Be sure that doors are secured with deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw as well as a reinforced strike plate with three inch screws.
- Secure sliding glass doors with a metal rod or piece of plywood. This will prevent someone from forcing the door from the track. Also, install vertical bolts.
- Always lock the door attached to the garage! Also, lock your vehicles while in the garage.
- If your vehicle is parked outside, **remove all personal items from vehicle including the garage door opener.**
- Keep shrubbery and bushes trimmed away from entrances, windows and walkways. Although these may make our property more aesthetically appealing, it also provides hiding places for burglars to break into a window or door.
- Use lights with motion sensors to keep your property well lit at all times.
- When going on vacation, have a trusted neighbor pick up mail, papers, etc. as well as park in your driveway occasionally to give the appearance of activity. Use timers on lights, radios and TV's to create the illusion that you are home, and lastly, **DO NOT** talk about vacations on Social Network Sites such as Facebook and Twitter until you have returned!

Crime prevention is not difficult and in many ways, a common sense approach to protecting your home. If anything appears to be abnormal in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to contact your local Law Enforcement Agency immediately and don't wait for a crime to be committed.