

Protect Yourself



From Burglary



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Burglary Task Force
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WILSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
BURGLARY TASK FORCE

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According to the FBI, a burglary occurs in the United States every 15.4 seconds. The majority of home and apartment burglaries occur during the daytime when most people are away at work or at school. Burglars tend to choose unoccupied homes with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and the best escape routes.



KEYS TO PREVENTION

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- **Be a Hard Target:**
Deadbolt, doors, block sliding doors and secure windows.
 - **Be a Good Neighbor:**
Know your neighbors, agree to watch each other's homes, and pick up mail and newspapers.
 - **Be Bright, Be Safe:**
Use interior and exterior lighting to make your home unattractive to burglars.
 - **Visual Deterrents:**
Use alarm decals, security signs, dog warnings, and neighborhood watch stickers to deter burglars.
 - **Never Offer an Invitation:**
Don't let answering machine messages, newspapers, open curtains & other indicators invite burglars when you're away.
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Ways to Protect Yourself from a Burglary

Following is a list of suggestions to minimize your risk of being burglarized:

- Keep all your doors and windows closed and locked
- Use heavy-duty deadbolt locks with one-inch throw bolts for all standard exterior doors
- Use blocking devices and anti-lift devices, such as through-the door pins or upper track screws, on all sliding glass doors
- Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices, so that they open no more than 6 inches
- Get to know your adjacent neighbors and agree to watch each other's home

- Pick up newspapers and flyers for your neighbors, and ask them to do the same for you
- Use light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy
- Install bright exterior lighting to eliminate hiding places around the front of your home
- Use motion sensor lights on your home
- Alarm systems are effective deterrents with visible signage
- Use highly visible burglar alarm or crime prevention decals, beware of dog decals, or block watch decals, especially on ground accessible windows
- Photograph and record the serial numbers of valuables
- Identify valuables by engraving an identification number on them
- Obtain a home safe and use it to protect your valuables
- Keep garage doors closed even when you are home
- Lock any door connecting the garage to your house; do not rely on an electric garage door for security

If You're the Victim of a Burglary, Help Police Identify the Burglar

If you return, home and unexpectedly find a door or window open and realize you have been burglarized, do NOT enter the residence; instead, immediately call the police. While you wait for the police, do NOT touch anything, do NOT sneeze or cough on top of any potential evidence, do NOT walk in any area that may contain evidence, and do NOT attempt to clean up any mess -- you may compromise important EVIDENCE. When the police arrive, point out anything out of the ordinary. A drinking glass out of place, a cigarette butt, a discarded garment, a drop of blood, a mask, a glove, or any item that does not belong in your residence or that you do not recognize may help convict your burglar! Similarly, any items or areas that the burglar may have touched or handled, such as jewelry boxes, may help identify him.



-Crime Stoppers offers rewards for information about criminal activities.

-Callers do not have to give their names and will not be required to testify in court.

-Each caller is assigned a number and will be asked to call crime stoppers again later to see if the tip resulted in an arrest. If so, the caller will be eligible for a reward.

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.wilsonnc.org/police>