

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

N E W J E R S E Y

CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

Summit Police Department

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Burglary Prevention Tips from the Summit Police Department

The **most** important thing you can do is **call the police** to report a crime or any suspicious activity.

Basic Precautions

- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Do not allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers, or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take mail regularly.
- Have adequate exterior lighting. Motion-sensitive lights are recommended.
- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes, or other hiding places—burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from the home—this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms, and antiques. Your insurance company can aid in making and keeping your inventory.
- Take extra precaution when contractors are working in your home to ensure alarm systems are active and doors are secure at the end of each workday.
- If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately.

Check door and window locks

- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

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- Some windows may need more secure locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.
- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in deadbolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Consider installing an alarm system

- An alarm system with video surveillance and doorbell camera is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There is a wide variety of systems on the market.
- If you have an alarm system, **use it** at night and while away from home.
- Make several inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.

Contact the Summit Police Department with any questions or concerns at 908-273-0051.