

Summer Safety Crime Prevention Tips

It's that time of year again! As you think about your summer plans, remember to look out for yourselves and your neighbors, whether you are gone for a short period of time or a long vacation. Below are some useful tips for safeguarding your home, brought to us by the Ann Arbor police department:

- Have good locks on all doors and windows, and **USE THEM!**
- Make sure any broken windows, doors or window locks are repaired.
- Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Have a neighbor place garbage cans at the curb on your normal pickup days and return them after the garbage pickup is made.
- Plug in timers to turn lights, a radio or a television on and off at appropriate times. This helps to disguise the fact that you are away.
- Turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages; leave your normal message on the machine.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you are home.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
- Secure storage sheds attic entrances and gates.
- Consider taking valuables to a bank safe deposit box.

Please feel free to share the information as you see fit!

Have a safe and restful summer!