

REPORTING A CRIME

If you are reporting a burglary, either one that is an in-progress emergency or one that has already happened, call 911.

There are interpreter and TTY services available for 911.

WHEN YOU MAKE A REPORT

- If you can, give the officer as much detail as possible, including sequence of events, suspect description, any identifying characteristics.
- If there are witnesses to the incident, point them out to the officers at the scene.

CONTACT US

If you have questions, concerns or information about a specific incident, please contact the **Criminal Investigations Section** at 703.746.6711.

NOTES ABOUT YOUR INCIDENT

Responding Officer

Case Number

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alexandria Police Department

3600 Wheeler Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304



Home Security: Burglary Prevention

Alexandria Police Department
alexandriava.gov/police

IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS:

- Did you leave the front door or garage door unlocked while you made a quick trip to the grocery store?
- Was it too much trouble to check the meter reader's identification before letting him/her in?
- Did you forget to tell a neighbor that you were going away for the weekend?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you are making it easier for a thief to work in your community.

PREVENTION

Good locks, simple precautions, neighborly alertness and common sense can help prevent most crimes. Get together with your neighbors to keep an eye on each other's homes. Half of all home burglaries occur during the day when alert neighbors could spot the thieves and call the police.

LOCKS, DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Install good deadbolt locks in your doors (not the spring-latch ones with the key in the knob) and use them! About 33% of burglars get in through unlocked doors and windows!
- Avoid door locks that can be manipulated by breaking glass or door panels to reach inside.
- Make sure outside doors, including the one between your house and garage, are solid 1³/₄- inch metal or wood and fit tightly in their frames. Hinges should be on the inside.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks, with a rigid wooden dowel in the track, or with a nail inserted through a hole drilled in the sliding door frame and projecting into the fixed frame.
- Lock double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash, or buy window key locks at a hardware store. Consider grills for basement or street level windows.

OUTSIDE

- trim back shrubbery that hides doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb into second story windows.
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well-lighted.
- Help keep your neighborhood in good shape. Dark alleys, litter and run-down areas attract crime.

GOING AWAY?

Burglars hope to avoid confrontations, so make your home look occupied!

- Leave lights on and the radio playing, preferably a talk show, when you go out.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Use inexpensive timing devices to turn inside lights and radio on and off at different times.
- If no one will be at home for more than a few days, arrange to have someone pick up the mail and newspapers. Have deliveries stopped or sent elsewhere.

Don't be afraid to call police (911) when you see suspicious persons or activity.

FOR ADDED PROTECTION

- If you keep very valuable possessions in your home or live in an isolated area, investigate the benefits of an alarm system. Be sure to check the company's references.
- Mark all valuable property. Compile an inventory, using photos or videotapes if possible.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street, and the alley if you have one, to help police and fire departments respond to emergency calls.
- Find an unpredictable place to hide valuable items, like a movable floorboard, under logs in the wood box, or among cleaning supplies under the sink.
- Store little-used items like a coin collection or stock certificates in a safe deposit box.
- Take out homeowner's insurance to protect yourself against financial loss from burglary or fire.
- Install smoke alarms.

TAKE ACTION...TODAY!

- Contact the Police Department for a home security survey at 703.746.1920.
- Teach your children safety rules about answering the phone and the door.
- Join or start a Neighborhood Watch.