

Business, Home & Vehicle Burglary/Theft Information

These types of crime are crimes of opportunity that criminals readily take advantage of, are constantly seeking out, and are very successful at. If appropriate preventative measures are taken by businesses and residents, the risk of becoming a victim are minimized.

Murrysville, as well as surrounding areas, has seen its share of home burglaries, business burglaries, and thefts from vehicles. In many cases, the person responsible is looking for a quick source of cash, or items that can be sold, to support their drug habit.

Following are some tips on how to avoid becoming a victim.

Preventing Business Burglaries & Thefts

- Every business should have an alarm that is monitored by an alarm agency.
- Consider video cameras at entry/exit points.
- Car dealerships should consider hiring a security guard to monitor their lot.
- Place signs around the business advising that the building is alarmed.
- Outside areas should be well lit limiting the amount of dark areas around doors and windows.
- Keep hedges and bushes trimmed to allow clear visibility of the doors and windows.
- Doors should be solid core.
- Secure exterior doors with a deadbolt lock.
- Consider having glass doors reinforced with steel bars or mesh.
- Make sure skylights and any other outside access point are secured with steel bars.
- Control who has keys to the business. Some burglaries are “inside jobs”.
- Lock all doors and windows upon closing.

Preventing Home Burglaries & Thefts

- Do an analysis of your home to determine if there are areas that would provide a burglar easy entry into your home. You must make your home difficult to enter.
- Close garage doors at all times.
- Never leave ladders outside the home because this could allow a burglar access to second floor windows.
- Trim trees, hedges and bushes away from doors and windows to allow neighbors and police clear visibility.
- Install motion sensor lighting on exterior.
- Consider an alarm that is monitored by an alarm agency.
- Install warning signs advising that the home is alarmed, or “Beware of Dog”, etc.
- All exterior doors should be solid core and have deadbolt locks.

- Doors that have glass should have a double-cylinder deadbolt that requires a key to be used on both sides. This will prevent unlocking of the door by reaching through the broken glass area.
- Place a stick or other solid object in the track of a sliding glass patio door.
- Lock windows and doors when you go to bed.
- Have light timers on interior lights when on vacation or away for extended periods.
- Never allow newspapers or mail to accumulate.
- Keep firearms and other valuable items in a safe that is secured to a stationary object (floor or wall).
- Make a comprehensive list of valuable items listing make, model, serial number, etc.
- If you rent an apartment, have renter's insurance.
- Adopt the practice of neighbor looking out for neighbor, and report any suspicious people or activity to the police.

Preventing Vehicle Theft and Thefts from Vehicles

- Lock car doors and close windows at all times, including a sunroof.
- Never leave keys inside the car.
- Keep valuables out of sight, securing them in the trunk if possible.
- Park vehicles close to the house or in the garage.
- Park in a well lit area while shopping or overnight.
- Vehicle should have an alarm.
- Have a locking lug nut on each wheel.
- Avoid hiding or attaching a spare key to the vehicle.