



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SAFETY TIPS*

Courtesy of University City Community Association (UCCA),
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Call 911 for crimes in progress
Call 619-531-2000 for non-emergency crimes or suspicious activities

- Lock all side gates
- Install LED lights around house, either dusk to dawn or motion detectors
- Post a "Beware of Dog" sign on side gate (even if you don't have a dog)
- Post a "No Solicitors" sign near front doorbell
- Install a burglar alarm and cameras
- Set lights on timers for inside home
- Ensure that no valuables are visible in your car, including electronic cords
- Share crime prevention and safety tips with Nextdoor neighbors
- Install lights at front door; clearly mark home address at both curb (reflective) and front door

Do You Think There Was A Break In?

- Call 911 if you are at home and think someone might be breaking in (SDPD will find you because your residence is clearly marked and lighted)
- Do not go in or call out if you return home and suspect someone has broken into your home or a strange vehicle is parked in the driveway. Go to a neighbor's home and call the police
- Keep valuable papers, stocks, bonds, expensive jewelry, coin collections, etc. in a bank safe deposit box or in a safe at home that is hidden and bolted to the floor

Daily Procedures

- Keep all doors and windows locked, even if you are just leaving for a few minutes. Use pins or dowels in window and patio door tracks
- Lock gates and make sure garage door is closed
- Don't leave notes on your door when you are away from home
- Leave a spare key with a neighbor, not under a mat or plant or rock.

Solicitors

- Do not open door to people you don't know, talk through the door and let them know you are not interested; if you didn't invite them, they are solicitors. Legitimate people will have a card from the SDPD and display it on the front of their clothing. They are allowed to solicit between 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM.
- Post a No Soliciting sign to prevent them from bothering you in any way.
- Never let a stranger enter your home to use the telephone. Offer to make the call yourself in an emergency.

Protect Your Home While Away

- Don't give your name, phone number or whereabouts on your answering machine message. Never say you aren't home. Just ask the caller to leave a message.
- Don't leave your garage door opener where it is easily accessible; take it in the house with you with your keys. Keep your vehicle registration, proof of insurance and any other papers with your home address on them where a criminal won't find them.
- Don't give maids, babysitters or others working in your home access to your home keys or alarm codes.
- Have a neighbor pick up papers or flyers or deliveries quickly.
- Set up an appointment with RSVP to check on your home while away.
- Be sure a neighbor knows how to turn off your main water and gas valves.

Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You; How Bad Guys Identify their Next Victim

- I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
- If glass is part of your front entrance, install the alarm control panel where it can't be seen.
- Don't forget to lock your doors and turn on your alarm when you go out.
- Be aware of contractors or service people working nearby; they could be checking out your home also.
- Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer, bedside table, medicine cabinet?
- A loud TV or radio can be an excellent deterrent; put it on a timer.
- Sometimes I carry a clipboard. Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy. I try not to look like a burglar.
- The three things I hate the most are lights, loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
- I love looking in your windows for signs that you're not home and see what kind of TV or gaming system you might have.
- I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night before you close the blinds just to pick my targets.

Refer to <http://www.sandiego.gov/police/services/prevention/programs/neighborhoodwatch.shtml> for more information about Neighborhood Watch and additional crime prevention tips.

*Adapted from SDPD information; based on personal experience by University City Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Barbara Gellman. For more information, visit <http://www.universitycitynews.org/> or email bggellman@yahoo.com.