

Arlington Heights Police Department

RESIDENCE PROTECTION – VACATION TIPS



Unfortunately, we no longer live in the “good ol’ days” when we left our doors unlocked and our windows and garage doors open. Criminals look for those opportunities and other indicators you are not home when picking a target. Your goal is to create a secure environment that a criminal will avoid.

Make your home look occupied:

-  Have several electronic devices on timers: lights, radio, and television.
-  Have a neighbor or friend collect your mail and/or newspapers. Do not stop these delivery services. Would you tell a complete stranger you are on vacation?
-  Have a neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway.
-  During the winter ensure your driveway and sidewalks are clear of snow.
-  Leave your window treatments open.
-  While away, have your lawn and landscaping regularly maintained.
-  To increase natural surveillance of your home prune bushes to no higher than 3 feet. Raise the tree canopy to at least 6 feet in height.

Physical Security:

-  **LOCK ALL EXTERIOR DOORS and WINDOWS.**
-  Unplug or lock overhead garage door and secure interior garage to home access doors.
-  Use solid core exterior doors with double key deadbolt locks (minimum 1” throw).
-  Secure the strike plate with screws long enough to penetrate the door frame structure.
-  Install a burglar/anti-slide device on all sliding glass doors.
-  Install dawn to dusk sensor lighting in front and sensor or motion detection lighting in back.
-  Make sure your alarm system is functioning properly.
-  Use of a safety deposit box for valuables is recommended. A home safe should be secured to the floor or wall and hidden from view.
-  Tell a trusted neighbor you will be away so they can watch for suspicious activity.

Protect Vacation Information:

-  **NEVER** share your vacation information with taxi cab or limousine drivers.
-  **NEVER** post your vacation information on Social Media sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
-  Fill out an Arlington Heights Police Department “Emergency Information Card” online in the Document Center on the Village website at <http://www.vah.com/documents/default.aspx>

Reporting a Burglary:

-  If you return home and find signs of forced entry **DO NOT ENTER** the residence.
-  Move to a safe location and call 911.
-  Stay there until police arrive and provide assistance as requested.

For a **free** Home Security Survey contact the Arlington Heights Police Department Crime Prevention Officer (847) 368-5310.