



# RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES ARE CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

If you take away the opportunity, you are less likely to become a victim.

Here are some helpful tips to make it harder for a burglar.

**Mayor William Peduto**  
**Chief Cameron McLay**

**1.** Keep shrubs trimmed back. If windows are visible, it's easier for neighbors or police to spot a broken window. Also, consider "thorny" shrubs. If it's painful to access a window over shrubs, that's a deterrent.

**2.** Consider an alarm system. Most insurance companies offer discounts for alarms. Some systems also monitor for fire.

**3.** Lock all doors and windows. On the subject of locks, invest in a good lock. Deadbolts with long bolts that terminate in a good, solid door frame makes breaking down a door a chore.

**4.** Watch what you throw out with the trash. If you've purchased a new TV, computer, or other expensive item, consider another way to dispose of the box. Can you cut up the box and place it in garbage bags? Can you take it to a recycle drop off spot?

**5.** Keep your garage door locked at all times. Not only does this prevent items from being stolen, it also takes away another sign that you're away. If you have a garage, use it to store your vehicles. This makes it harder for crooks to not only determine when you're home and when you're gone, but also helps prevent them from burglarizing vehicles.



## Other Tips

- **When away for long periods of time, give the home a lived in look.** Keep on an inside light. Leave a radio or TV on at a conversational volume level. Have a neighbor pick up your paper and mail or call the post office & ask that your mail be held. Have a neighbor remove door hangers and other advertisements that pile up.
- **Consider a safe deposit box for jewelry storage,** especially expensive jewelry or jewelry you don't wear often.
- **Join or form a crime watch group and invite the police to your meetings.** This can be a powerful tool in your arsenal against crime.
- **Turn on exterior lighting after dark.** Use the same schedule for lighting when you're away that you do when you're home. Consider timers for exterior lights.

Remember, **YOU** are an important partner in keeping our neighborhoods safe.