



Burglary victims often feel vulnerable and violated as their personal space has been invaded. *Residential burglaries statistically occur during the day while families are at work or school.* The most common entry technique is a hard kick to the door, forcing the wooden jamb to give away. Household tools like hammers, screwdrivers, pry bars, and pliers may be used to gain entry into your home.

Unfortunately, it is hard to catch burglars in the act and harder to catch them after the fact. While residential burglaries seem random in nature, there is a simple selection process. *Unoccupied homes with easy or concealed access and quick escape routes are targeted.*

Burglars look for small expensive items that are easily traded for cash. Favorite items include cash, jewelry, laptops, CD/DVD players, game consoles, watches, weapons, and small electronics devices.

- **Make safety a habit**
- **Security starts at the curb**
- **Lock your home at all times**
- **Create a Block Watch group in your neighborhood**
- **Don't be afraid or embarrassed to call 911!**

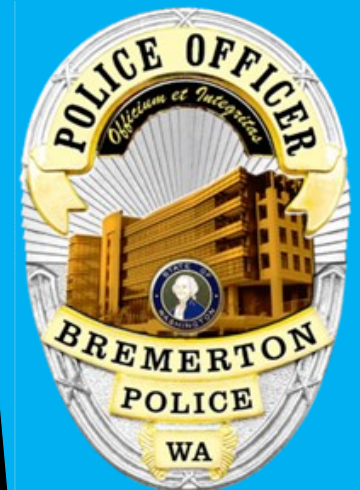
For more information, call the Bremerton Police Community Resource Unit at (360) 473-5231



Residential Burglary Prevention

Bremerton Police Department

**1025 Burwell Street
Bremerton, WA**



Ways to Discourage Burglars

Doors And Windows:

- ◆ Change the locks when moving into a new residence.
- ◆ *Always lock your doors and windows.*
- ◆ Give a trusted neighbor a spare key—Do not hide it outside.
- ◆ Use solid core or metal exterior doors.
- ◆ Install four-screw strike plates with three-inch screws to penetrate the wood door frame.
- ◆ Use dead bolt door locks on exterior doors and double-cylinder dead bolt locks if glass is within three feet of the lock.
- ◆ Add auxiliary track locks, removable drop bars, wooden dowels, or pinning devices to windows and sliding glass doors.
- ◆ Install peepholes on doors with 160 degree views.
- ◆ Upgrade locks to defeat bump keying.

Vehicle Smarts:

- ◆ Close garage doors and cover windows so no one can see inside.
- ◆ Leave only the ignition key with parking lot attendants—if required.
- ◆ Hide the garage door opener from open view in your car.

Landscaping:

- ◆ Trim tree branches and prune shrubs to under 3 feet from the ground. Take away potential hiding places!
- ◆ Use motion sensors and photo sensors on exterior floodlights.

Personal Information:

- ◆ Keep valuables in a safe deposit box.
- ◆ Use a locking mailbox.

While on Vacation:

- ◆ Hire a house sitter or ask a neighbor to watch your house.
- ◆ Ask neighbors to help with your trash bins, mail, and newspaper.
- ◆ Install a monitored residential alarm system.
- ◆ Park a car in your driveway.
- ◆ Use timers on indoor lights to give the impression you are home.
- ◆ Have any packages delivered to a trusted neighbor's house.

Dealing With Strangers

- ◆ Never let strangers into your home regardless of the story they may have!
- ◆ Verify workers by ID (through the door) or by calling their employer.
- ◆ Never give keys to workers.
- ◆ Never leave notes for anyone on the door. This is a

- ◆ giveaway that you are not home!
- ◆ Report any suspicious activity immediately by calling 911.

Bright ideas:

- ◆ Install lights by all exterior doors. *Use lights at night.*
- ◆ Install outside light fixtures where bulbs are hard to reach.
- ◆ Illuminate house numbers for quick emergency service response.
- ◆ Trim shrubs back from doors and windows. *Do not give burglars places to hide!*

