How you can prevent becoming a victim

BURGLARY PREVENTION

ENSURE YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY WITH THESE HELPFUL TIPS:

- Check doors at night and lock all windows.
- Get a barking dog or “beware of dog” signs.
- Plant thorny bushes under all windows to eliminate hiding places.
- Don’t hide a spare key under the door mat or under a flower pot.
- Keep large amounts of cash or valuable jewelry in a safe deposit box.
- Put your purse, wallet, money and other valuables out of plain sight.

- Lock the door and take the key with you, even if you are just stepping next door or out mowing the back yard.
- Use a timer set to turn interior lights on and off at varying intervals.
- Keep any tools that could be used to break into your house, like a ladder, safely locked away in a garage or shed.
- Light up your neighborhood. Leave outdoor lights on all night. Encourage your neighbors to do the same—it serves as a deterrent.
- Keep your home occupied when you aren’t home. Put your purse, wallet, money and other valuables out of plain sight.

Phone: 830-5000

CITY OF LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

9401 Lakewood Dr. SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
**Burglary**

Burglary is defined as a non-confrontational crime. But, being victimized can leave a family feeling vulnerable and violated.

- The majority of burglaries occur during the day.
- Burglaries occur at night when there are obvious signs that no one is home.
- Most burglars are young males looking for things that are small, expensive and can be easily converted to cash.
- 30% of all burglars gain access through an open door or window.
- The selection process is simple. The burglar looks for an unoccupied apartment or house with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes.

**Is this where you live?**

**Most Stolen Items:**
- CASH
- JEWELRY
- GUNS
- WATCHES
- LAPTOPS
- Other small electronic devices (PDAs, Game Boys, Etc.)

**Minimize Your Risks**
- Use solid core wood or metal doors
- Doors should fit tightly in the frame
- Use a quality, heavy-duty dead bolt lock with a one-inch throw bolt
- Use a quality, heavy-duty, door knob-in-lock with a deadbolt latch mechanism

**Doors & Locks**
- Use a heavy duty strike plate with 3” screws to penetrate into wooden door frames
- Use a 180 degree peephole mounted no higher than 58 inches
- The most common way used to force entry through a wooden door is to simply kick it open. The weakest point is most always the strike plate that holds the latch or lock bolt in place
- Most sliding glass doors are installed at the rear of an apartment making them good candidates for entry by a burglar.
- It is important to have a secondary locking device to prevent the door from being fully opened from the outside