



## Take Action:

- When you are at home, take time to look outside from your windows and do a quick inspection of the area. Call the Police Department if you see anything or anyone suspicious.
- Call the police if you see a person tampering with doors and windows in your neighborhood. Your call to the police may prevent a burglary from occurring in your neighborhood.
- Most importantly, organize a community watch program to protect your neighborhood. If you would like to attend or start a Neighborhood Watch program in your community, contact: Officer Thomas or Salazar @ (951) 506-5130

**By following the suggestions in this brochure, you can decrease your chances of becoming a burglary victim**



Phone: (951) 696-3000  
Non-Emergency: (951) 696-HELP(4357)  
Emergency: 911  
Fax: 951-696-3010  
E-mail: [CityofTemecula.org](mailto:CityofTemecula.org)

The Temecula Police Department is committed to work in partnership with your community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of the City of Temecula.

## OTHER TIPS:

### A GUIDE TO PREVENTING VEHICLE BURGLARY

- LOCK YOUR CAR-VEHICLE BURGLARIES ARE CRIMES OF "OPPORTUNITY", TAKE AWAY THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A BURGLAR TO GET INTO YOUR VEHICLE AND YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF NOT BEING A VICTIM.
- DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN VIEW. VEHICLE BURGLARIES CAN LEAD TO IDENTITY THEFT. STOLEN WALLETS AND COMPUTERS ARE SOURCES OF IDENTITY THEFT.
- PUT ALL VALUABLES IN THE TRUNK PRIOR TO REACHING YOUR DESTINATION. THIEVES ARE OFTEN WATCHING WHEN YOU PARK YOUR VEHICLE. SO CONCEAL ITEMS SUCH AS BACKPACKS, GYM BAGS, GPS, I-PODS AND SO FORTH.
- PARK IN WELL LIT AREA WHEN POSSIBLE.
- SET ANY ALARM OR ANTI-THEFT DEVICE; IF YOU HAVE ONE, USE IT!
- LOCK YOUR DOORS & WINDOWS.



## Tips to keep your home from being burglarized



Temecula Police Department  
(951) 696-3000  
City of Temecula web-site  
[www.CityofTemecula.org](http://www.CityofTemecula.org)



Burglaries in Temecula neighborhoods cost residents the loss of property and the sense of security. Most burglaries in your neighborhood are being committed by criminals that are not skilled professionals, so **DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM!**

## What Are Burglars After?

Most homes are extremely vulnerable to burglaries during the December holidays. The reason for this is simple - families may be traveling or away for long periods of time and homes are usually filled with high value items. However, this in no way means that robberies and burglaries do not happen during other months, as well. According to data obtained from the FBI, insurance companies, and burglar alarm companies, burglars are active throughout the year. Some of the most frequently stolen items include:

- Items that can be easily sold. These items include, but are not limited to, tools, jewelry, bicycles and sporting goods.
- Electronic goods and gadgets such as cameras, GPS, computers and iPods.
- Expensive items such gold, coins, precious stones or metal.

## PREVENTION TIPS:

- Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. An open window or door is an open invitation for burglars. Thieves are also quick to spot weak locks that may be easily forced open. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three inch screws.
- Secure sliding glass doors. Place metal rod or piece of plywood in the track and install vertical bolts. These will help prevent burglars from forcing the door open or lifting it off the track.
- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes, or other "secret" hiding places since burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Look for clues that people may be casing your neighborhood. A stranger ringing doorbells and saying, "Can I speak to Charlie" may be checking to see if anyone is home. Also be suspicious if you see someone sitting for long periods in a parked car.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked. This helps protect valuable property stored in your garage and prevents access to interior doors to your house. An open garage is an invitation for a burglar.



## Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate.
- Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. Never advertise your absence by the use of social media.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. While large, ornate hedges may be beautiful, they also provide a hiding place for burglars who need only seconds to break in through a window or door.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted. Installing low voltage outdoor lighting is a cost-effective way to highlight your home, while also discouraging intruders.
- Mark your valuables with an engraver. Marking your property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property.