



BURGLARY PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Provided by the Dubuque Police Department

- ✓ Ensure all doors and windows are equipped with sufficient locking mechanisms.
- ✓ Keep doors & windows locked at all times (some windows can be locked even when open).
- ✓ Keep valuables a sufficient distance from easily accessed windows and remember screens can be cut/removed easily.
- ✓ Consider using auxiliary or supplemental interior locking mechanisms on doors/windows.
- ✓ Ensure door locks cannot be accessed if door glass (or side panel glass) is broken.
- ✓ Use 3” screws to secure latch/deadbolt strike plates and ensure the deadbolt enters the door jamb at least 1”.
- ✓ Solid wood or metal construction is preferred for exterior doors.
- ✓ Install “peep holes” or wide-angle viewers in exterior doors.
- ✓ If screen doors are used, ensure they have adequate/quality locks as well.
- ✓ Re-enforce sliding doors/windows by placing a board/rod in the slide channel.
- ✓ 2-3” screws may be installed in the top channel of sliding doors to prevent lifting them off track.
- ✓ Remember to lock garage doors/windows and the vehicles within.
- ✓ Maintain sufficient exterior lighting, especially in vulnerable areas (motion/photo-eye/sensor).
- ✓ Maintain vegetation & landscaping, etc. allowing sufficient visibility (down to 3’ and up to 6’).
- ✓ Maintain the overall exterior of the residence, yard, sidewalk, fencing, landscaping, etc.
- ✓ Install/use an alarm system – some are relatively inexpensive and can be purchased locally.
- ✓ Surveillance cameras are also relatively inexpensive and can be purchased locally.
- ✓ Security companies will also install systems that notify police/fire through an alarm company.
- ✓ When gone, make it appear/sound as though someone is still home (lights on timers, etc.).
- ✓ When you leave for an extended period of time, have a trusted person maintain your home.
- ✓ If you will be gone for more than a couple days, have your mail/newspaper held/stopped.
- ✓ Don’t publicize your extended absence online (via social media, etc.).
- ✓ Immediately report ALL suspicious/criminal activity in your neighborhood.
- ✓ Record all valuables and serial numbers if applicable – see “ReportIt” on page 2 (reverse).
- ✓ Keep the above recordings and other valuables (including guns) in a secure, well-hidden, fire-resistant safe that is secured (bolted) to the floor/wall.
- ✓ Avoid hiding keys outside the home.
- ✓ Display “beware” signage: “Beware of Dog”, and/or post signs indicating you have an alarm.
- ✓ Ensure exterior phone and electrical lines are secure and tamper-proof.
- ✓ Be wary of “wrong numbers” and teach children how to answer if guardians are not home: (“Mom/Dad **is** home but busy, may I take a message?”)
- ✓ Do not allow anyone in the residence unless s/he is a verified trustworthy person.
- ✓ Always lock your vehicle and do not leave items of value within (at least not in plain view) – including electronic devices and associated accessories (cords/chargers, cases, mounts, etc.).

Additional Resources

Nextdoor.com – “Virtual neighborhood watch” used by over 17,000 neighborhoods and counting. Connect with one another and help prevent crime. Nextdoor is a free and private social network for neighbors. Neighbors are using Nextdoor to:

- Safely connect with other neighbors: Each neighborhood website is private and secure. Members must verify their address to join.
- Stop crime before it happens: Neighbors can report suspicious activity to one another and send urgent alerts to keep everyone informed.
- Organize and mobilize neighbors: Nextdoor makes it easy to organize neighborhood events and encourage greater participation.

ReportIt.leadsonline.com: Free, secure, web-based service that allows you to record important information about your valuables (serial numbers, images, etc.).

Smart911.com: Free, secure service that allows you to make a safety profile for your phone(s) giving emergency responders important information immediately upon calling 911.

“Notify Me” service: Sign up on the City of Dubuque website to be notified of police department news, as well as receive agendas, news releases, event notifications and other timely news. Citizens can receive these notifications via email, text message, or both. To sign up, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme.

www.cityofdubuque.org/police / MyDBQ app

<http://p2c.cityofdubuque.org/> (P2C [Police to Citizen] website)

Home Security Assessment: Looking for recommendations on making your home safer? Contact Dubuque Police Department’s Crime Prevention Officer to schedule a free Security Assessment: 563-589-4473 or jmesserer@cityofdubuque.org.

Remain vigilant at all times and immediately report ALL suspicious/criminal activity to law enforcement: 9-1-1 for emergencies and 563-589-4415 for non-emergencies. The latter number should be programmed into your cellular phone and/or prominently displayed on/near all home phones.