

# ***Ideas to Keep Your Property Safe***

Neighborhood Watch is all about "Neighbors helping neighbors"

1. Remove temptation
  - a. Don't leave valuables outside your house in plain view to the roadside, close and lock garage doors.
2. Keep windows and doors locked. Use deadbolts & dowels in bottom window tracks.
3. Use longer screws in the door and door frame. Metal doors/frames are less likely to be kicked in.
4. Know your neighbors, contact information, their vehicles, work schedules, etc.
5. Close your gate and lock it even when home. Consider fencing your perimeter.
  - a. If the gate is only closed when you are gone, it is like advertising that you are not home.
6. Alarms & Security Cameras & Signs – make sure cameras are visible, facing all sides of your property
  - a. Most crimes are committed during the day and through the back of the house
7. Motion Detectors & Motion Lights
8. Photograph & Record serial numbers of valuables and send to your insurance agent
9. Keep receipts for anything valuable in a safe place and register with the manufacturer whenever possible.
10. Ask your insurance agent about a policy rider for valuables
11. Leave lights and music on when not home. Use a timer to make it look like you're home. Helco is cheaper than most insurance deductible.
12. Consider having any sized dog that barks at strangers – more of a deterrent
13. Caution using window AC units or doggy doors- can be used as entry points
14. Tell the police & a trusted neighbor when you'll be away.
15. Don't hide a key near the door on a hook, mat, rock, etc.
16. Use a safe (hide and secure to the floor) or security box at the bank for important valuables.
17. Store valuables out of sight in your car. Keep locked at all times.
18. If you own a gun, don't make it public knowledge
19. Always keep cars locked even when in your own driveway.
20. Keep grass & vegetation cut to make the house look occupied and no hiding places for thieves
21. Remove ladders and chairs from back yard area.
22. While on vacation, stop all deliveries (and mail) or ask a neighbor to pick them up. Don't post your travel plans on social media.
23. Be wary of subcontractors and landscapers – ask for references, license and business card
24. Don't let strangers into your house ie: salespeople, maintenance, party-goers (friends of friends)
25. Be up to date on local scams and police reports – understand the trends and types of crime in your area
26. Report all suspicious activity to the police & share info with your neighbors.
27. Install a Motion Detector Alarm at the entrance of your driveway.
28. Use car alarm to alert neighbors of an intruder or criminal activity.
29. Backup your computer files to cloud-based services ie: Dropbox, Google Drive
30. Install steering wheel lock, brake locks, or an ignition "Kill Switch" for older vehicles
31. Secure your garage door opener in a safe place