


### **Consider an Alarm system**

- If financially capable consider installing a quality alarm system with an audible ringer that will alert neighbors.
  - When appropriate, isolate alarm zones to keep service people from wandering.
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- Although statistics show that video cameras do not deter crime, they are extremely effective in assisting law enforcement with their investigation after a crime has occurred.

### **Avoid Confrontation**

- Do not confront any intruder. If possible attempt to exit the residence to a safe place to contact police.
- Do not enter your residence if something appears to be wrong. Go to a neighbor's house and dial **911**.
- Charge your cellular phone on your nightstand. This way you have easy access to a working phone at night.

### **Home Inventory**

- Create a log of your valuables.
- Include serial numbers and photographs of the property you are trying to protect.
- Consider storing rare and expensive items in a safe or safety deposit box.
- Have a copy of the inventory stored in a safe place other than your residence.

### **Greenwich Police Dark House List**

The Greenwich Police Department provides this service for the residents of Greenwich whose homes will be vacant for an extended period.

Simply contact the Police Department's non-emergency number **(203) 622-8002** and provide the following information:

- The dates your residence will be vacant,
- Who has permission to be on your property while you are away,
- What vehicles belong on your property, and
- Contact and key holder information.

The Officers assigned to your neighborhood will then be made aware of your absence and can make periodic checks of your property while you are away.

This is an excellent way to assist the Greenwich Police with detecting crime and providing you a tool to better safeguard your personal property while you are away.

For more information concerning Burglary Prevention or Personal Safety please feel free to contact the

**Greenwich Police Department**  
**Detective Division**

**(203) 622-8054**

OR

**Greenwich Police Department**  
**Community Impact Section**

**(203) 618-8305**



## **BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS**



**GREENWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**11 BRUCE PLACE**  
**GREENWICH CT 06830**  
**1 (203) 622-8002**

## ***Know the facts.....***

Burglary is defined as “the act of entering a building or other premises with intent to steal”. This is different from a robbery which is defined as “the act or an instance of unlawfully taking the property of another by the use of violence or intimidation”. A burglar’s goal is to enter the premises undetected and help themselves to your personal property.

People tend to believe burglary only happens to others, but that way of thinking makes you a vulnerable target. Home burglaries do not discriminate - they occur to residents of inner cities and suburban communities alike.

Between 60 and 80 residential burglaries occur annually within the Town of Greenwich. Statistics show that burglary and theft occur most often in an unoccupied house; burglars want to avoid a confrontation or deal with the possibility of a witness to their crime.

The “**goal**” of this informational flyer is to bring awareness to the community and to provide proven prevention tips to make your home less attractive to the criminal element.

The tips provided in this flyer will assist you with making your home and valuables more secure. You will become more aware of your surroundings and learn the proper way to report crimes after they occur.

## ***Protecting your home.....***



There are two major indicators that alert potential burglars to the fact that your home is available to be broken into. **1.** Your home appears to be unoccupied and **2.** Posting your travel plans on social networks.

### **Do not leave your home dark**

- When you are at home, various lights are usually turned on and off at different times throughout the evening. If your home is left dark for any period of time, everyone, including burglars, will know you are not at home.
- While you are away, you can make your home appear occupied through the use of light timers. Surround the exterior of your residence with light. A well illuminated residence is the #1 deterrent for crime. This is paramount.

### **Postpone your mail and paper delivery**

- Make sure to postpone your mail and newspaper delivery while away. Newspapers piling up in the driveway or mail overflowing out of your mailbox are good indicators that your home is unoccupied.

### **Maintain your property**

- Make sure your landscaping (lawn mowing and leaf removal) is addressed while away. Make arrangements to have your driveway plowed and walkways shoveled from any snowfall while you are away. Attention to your home exterior and yard gives the impression of an attentive homeowner and an occupied dwelling.

## **Do not post travel plans**

- Posting your travel plans on any social networking sites (i.e., Facebook, Twitter or MySpace) is a bad idea. The information you post is available for all to read and is accessible through search engines.

### **Trusted neighbor**

- Get to know and develop a bond of trust with your neighbors. Watch out for one another, and keep a neighborhood roster that includes work and cell phone numbers.
- Provide a trusted neighbor with your travel itinerary and inform them of anyone who could be at your residence while away.
- Provide a key to a neighbor in case of emergencies
- Have a neighbor park a vehicle in your driveway while you are away and retrieve any packages that might be delivered.

### **Consider a canine**

- You don’t need a large attack dog; even a small dog creates a disturbance that burglars would prefer to avoid.



- Remember to license and vaccinate your canine.
- Post Beware of Dog signs on your property.
- Consider having someone care for your dog while you’re away instead of boarding it.