



Commercial Break and Enter/Robbery Tips



Tips to Help Prevent Commercial Break and Enters

At all times, but specifically during the temporary business closures, the Halton Regional Police Service wants to provide business owners with recommendations to help prevent Commercial Break and Enters:

- Remove all cash from the till and leave it open. Place the cash tray in clear view on the counter to indicate the till is empty.
- Remove items from window displays. This will help mitigate smash and grab occurrences.
- Post signage on the door/window to indicate premises is:
 - Monitored by alarm company;
 - No money is kept on premises; and
 - Contact information for the police and business owner in the event a member of the public observes damage to property or suspicious activity.
- Consider installing a good quality video alarm monitoring system that can be monitored online. Angle cameras towards points of entry (doors, windows). Ensure all currently installed systems are in good working order.
- Clean all glass surfaces and create a tracking log of when cleaning was completed. This can assist police during an investigation with fingerprints if a break in occurs.
- Consider installing Security Film for windows.
- Install latch guards on ALL doors to protect against prying.
- Keep some lighting on inside for surveillance opportunities during the evening.
- Ensure all doors are locked.
- Ensure all exterior lighting is functioning.
- Remove material around the exterior of property that maybe be used to gain entry into the premises (brick, metal poles and construction materials).



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In the Event of a Robbery:

- Do not do anything to provoke the suspect.
- Call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Lock the door and close the business immediately after the suspect leaves.
- Avoid allowing people to walk over the area where the suspect travelled.
- Do not touch or clean up anything that was disturbed.
- Remain calm and try to remember what the suspect touched, whether they were wearing gloves and which direction they fled.

Upon Discovery of a Break-In:

- Call police immediately and avoid entering the premise.
- Wait for police to clear the premise for possible remaining suspects.
- Do not open for business.
- If you must enter, avoid walking over the path that suspects may have taken. Walk close to the edge of walls. Even if you can't see footwear impressions, they may still be present and visualized by Forensic Officers.
- Do not touch anything. A suspect(s) fingerprints may be smudged or overlapped.
- Avoid cleaning up evidence until a Forensic Officer has completed their examination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Halton Regional Police Service

905-825-4777

haltonpolice.ca