

March 2019 "A Safer Naper" Website Content

Burglary Prevention Presentations

The Naperville Police Department is hosting two burglary prevention presentations as part of this month's A Safer Naper campaign. In addition to recommending ways to safeguard your home, vehicles and other personal items, Department representatives will also make time for questions and answers and will be giving away one free video doorbell to an attendee at each forum.

The forums will be held on Tuesday, March 26.

- 1 to 2 p.m. at the 95th Street Library, 3015 Cedar Glade Drive
- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle Street

March – Burglary Prevention

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The Naperville Police Department's community policing strategy provides many ways for the police and Naperville's residents to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent burglary is to know who belongs in your neighborhood and be alert in protecting not only your property, but your neighbors' property, as well. Report any suspicious behavior immediately to 9-1-1.

You only have to lock up the things you want to keep!

Home Security Tips

Alarms. If you have an alarm system, make sure you know how to use it properly both when you are out and at home. Know your passcodes and make sure your call-back list is up to date.

"Beware" Decals. "Beware" decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Barred Windows. Prevent break-ins through basement space by installing metal grills across the frames. Use a quick-release mechanism for easy exiting in case of fire.

Deadbolt Locks on Doors. Secure doors with all-metal deadbolt locks. Single-cylinder deadbolts conform to the fire code for residential buildings, allowing safety as well as security. Be sure that the deadbolt throw goes at least 1 inch into the door frame and that the strike plate is installed with at least 3-inch wood screws.

Door Eye Viewers. Thieves know they may not gain entry into a home if the occupants are able to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn't have a window, it should have a wide angle 180-degree lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

Double Hung Windows. Secure them by drilling through the corners of the sashes and inserting a removable metal pin or nail.

Easily Readable House Numbers. It's easier for emergency services to locate a home in a hurry if the house numbers are large and well lit. If there's an alley, put house numbers in back of your house, too.

Fences. Use see-through fencing like picket or chain link fences. Solid fencing may provide you with privacy, but it also provides privacy for burglars as they attempt to break into your home.

Garage Door. When the garage is securely locked, thieves must resort to more difficult means of entering a home. It also keeps them from stealing property stored in the garage. Secure the door leading from the garage into the house the same way you would an exterior front door.

Interior Lights. Use a timer to switch lights on and off at various hours during the day and night to make it look like someone is home when you are away. Be sure to regularly change the time they go off and on.

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Inventory Your Valuables. Create a list with models, serial numbers, costs and descriptions of items. Email this list to yourself so you'll always have an electronic copy if your computer is stolen during a burglary. This will be needed by police and your insurance company.

Porch/Walkway Lights. High efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Reinforced Door Frame. Reinforce the door frame by filling empty spaces between the door jamb and 2x4 stud with a solid piece of wood and shims. This will prevent a thief from pushing or prying back the doorframe.

Secure Hinges. Hinges on exterior doors should be installed with the pin side facing inside the door frame. This prevents thieves from pulling out the hinge pins and entering your door from the opposite side. You can also purchase hinges at the local hardware store that provide pins to hold the door in place when it's shut.

Sliding Glass Doors. A security bar and flathead screws installed in the upper tracks prevent thieves from sliding or lifting the door open. Removable pins in the frames will hold the door in place.

Sliding Glass Windows. Flathead screws installed in the upper track prevent thieves from lifting the window out of the frame. Auxiliary locks or dowels prevent it from being pried open horizontally.

Solid Core Exterior Doors. Always have a solid core wood or metal exterior door, installed in the frame with 3-inch wood screws. Glass in or adjacent to the door needs an application of security film.

The 2-6 Rule. Trim bushes no higher than 2 feet up from the ground, and limb trees up 6 feet from the ground; this eliminates hiding spots for criminals.

Vacation. Don't advertise that your home is vacant. While on vacation, arrange for someone to pick up your newspapers and mail, mow the lawn, and put out and retrieve your garbage cans. Have a radio or television turn on and off with a timer, and save the social media posts and pictures for when you return home.

Burglary to Motor Vehicle Prevention Tips

Don't leave vehicles unattended with the doors unlocked, windows down or the keys in them, even in your garage or driveway.

Always take your car keys with you and lock your car doors.

Take valuables with you or keep them out of sight by placing them in the trunk or using stow-and-go seating, preferably before arriving at your destination.

Park in well-lit areas.

Locker Room Theft Prevention Tips

Lockers are a convenient place to stow your belongings whether it be at school, the gym or at work. However, locker rooms are extremely vulnerable to theft because people often leave lockers unlocked, and the areas are usually not monitored by staff or security cameras. Below are ways that you can help reduce locker room thefts.

Leave Valuables at Home. The best way to keep your property from being stolen from a locker is by leaving it at home. Unless you really need something that day, don't bring it with you; carry only what you need. Most facilities have an "At your own risk" policy when it comes to using their lockers and will take no responsibility for your losses.

If You Have to Bring Your Valuables, Keep Them Safe by Keeping Them on You. If you pocket your valuables, thieves can't pocket them.

Avoid Calling Attention to Your Valuables. Letting people see what you are locking up makes your locker an appealing one to break into. If you bring in jewelry, wallets or phones, place them into your bag before you enter the facility. If you are leaving your phone in a locker, turn off the ringer to keep it making noise and letting others

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know it is there.

Never Leave Your Valuables Unattended. Most items are stolen because they are left unattended. Placing items in an unlocked locker is the same as leaving them out on the floor.

Choose A Locker in A Visible Area. Although the entire locker room should feel like a safe place, there may be some areas that are more prone to criminal activity based on its design. The back corners, for example, could provide ample coverage for a thief to feel concealed enough to attempt breaking into a locker. Choose a locker that's in the open and next to other lockers in use.

Invest in A Quality Lock. A cheap lock that's easily cut, picked or otherwise compromised can be tempting to thieves looking for an easy target. Instead, purchase a heavy-duty lock from a quality manufacturer. Why use a \$3 lock to protect an \$800 phone?

Secure Your Locker at All Times. Unlocked lockers or those that are not properly closed are easy targets. Make sure your locker is shut tightly at the top, in the middle and at the bottom. Secure it with a quality lock and keep it locked at all times. Do not share your combination with anyone.

Home Security Survey

No one can stop a person who is absolutely determined to break into a home, but most would-be burglars can be deterred by setting up physical barriers to make entry difficult and creating an environment in which the burglar feels detection is likely. Assess your home and learn tips that might better protect your property.

Get my survey [[link to PDF](#)]