

March 2022

A Safer Naper --- Home Safety

A burglary is reported every 15 seconds in the United States. Here in Naperville, it is important to remember that while ours is a safe community, it's not a crime-free community. Crime can happen anywhere. Therefore, our residents must take proactive steps to protect their homes and build safer neighborhoods. To assist in these efforts, the Naperville Police Department's March Safer Naper campaign provides practical tips to help residents secure their homes and the things within them.

Securing Your Home – 9 PM Routine

The literal nuts and bolts of physically securing your home can be found on our [Burglary Prevention webpage](#). There, you'll find tips like having a deadbolt lock with a 1-inch throw and reinforced strike plate with 2-3 inch screws on all exterior doors or trimming shrubbery and trees so that doors and windows are visible from the street. Check that webpage for practical checklists that can help make your home a harder target.

What we want to focus on this month is remembering to use those security features on a regular basis. The 9 PM Routine is a perfect place to start.

Humans are creatures of habit. Get into the habit each night of making sure you've secured your home and vehicle and taken proactive steps to combat auto thefts and break-ins. The 9 PM Routine helps you develop your own personal security routine by having a designated time to perform these tasks every night. So, the Naperville Police Department is encouraging you to set a 9 p.m. reminder to go through the following checklist to make sure your property is secure:

- Remove any valuables from vehicles left outside overnight. Remember, NEVER leave your keys or garage door opener in your vehicle.
- Lock vehicle doors.
- Close the overhead garage door.
- Close and lock all exterior doors and windows. Don't forget to lock the service door from your garage to your house.
- Turn on exterior lights and leave them on until dawn.



Securing the Valuables Inside Your Home

We all have valuables at home, whether it's cash, jewelry, electronics, or important documents. Taking proactive measures to safeguard valuable items in a home is best practices for everyone.

The best place to make sure important items are safe is to keep them in a safety deposit box in the bank. Keeping too much jewelry and a lot of cash at home is not only impractical, but also makes you a target for a burglary.

While there is no guaranteed foolproof hiding spot(s), there are places in a home that should be avoided such as the master bedroom or master bedroom closet. Nightstands, dresser drawers, jewelry boxes, and portable safes should also be avoided. It goes without saying old clichés of hiding valuables under mattresses, in freezers or in or behind toilet tanks should also be avoided.

Without specifically identifying locations or hiding spots, it is best to store valuables in uncommon places. Also, a high-quality heavy-duty safe bolted to the ground is considered a good option. When anchored properly it can be extremely difficult to take out of a home as well as time consuming for a burglar to pry open.

Keeping proper documentation on items of high value is also critical. Receipts, appraisals, photos, serial numbers and any other identifiable features on high-end pieces could aid in recovery if a theft occurs.

Firearm Safety

Firearms are often targeted in residential burglaries and easy access to firearms can lead to tragic consequences. According to the U.S. nonprofit [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), there were at least 371 unintentional shootings by children in 2021, resulting in 151 deaths and 239 injuries. It's the responsibility of the firearm owner to make sure firearms are securely stored and not accessible to children or at-risk persons.

If you own a firearm, remember that properly securing your firearm when not in use is the number one way to prevent accidents in the home. The right safe storage solution is different for everyone. Whichever method is chosen, it must provide an adequate level of protection to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the firearm.

Safe storage options defined by the Department of Justice include a safe, gun safe, gun case, lock box or other device that is designed to be or can be used to store a firearm and that is designed to be unlocked only by means of a key, a combination or other similar means.

Starting in March, the Naperville Police Department, in partnership with Project ChildSafe, will again begin distributing ChildSafe firearm safety kits to Naperville residents. Each kit includes a cable-style gun lock, information, literature and safety instructions. Firearm owners residing in Naperville who do not own a safety lock are strongly encouraged to pick up a ChildSafe safety kit at the police department, 1350 Aurora Ave., Naperville. The kits will be available while supplies last at the front desk of the police station, free of charge, weekdays 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

For tips on preventing thieves from targeting the contents inside your home, go to our [Burglary Prevention webpage](#).

Please contact Community Education Specialist, Michael Garofalo, at garofalom@naperville.il.us or (630) 420.6667 for additional information.

Callout Box:

HOME SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

The Naperville Police Department is hosting three home safety/burglary prevention presentations as part of this month's A Safer Naper campaign. Staff will provide tips on how to make your home a hard target as well as answer questions about securing your valuables and handing out gun locks.

Wednesday, March 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Naperville Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle St.

Thursday, March 31 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the 95th Street Library, 3015 Cedar Glade Dr.

Thursday, March 31 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the 95th Street Library, 3015 Cedar Glade Dr.