

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- House Numbers:** House numbers should be visible day or night from the front and back. In rural areas, name and number should be displayed on the mailbox. This is important for the police officer or EMS unit responding to a complaint at your home. Be conscious of **Louisville Metro Ordinance §156.053**.
- Property Identification:** Engrave all valuable property with a readily identifiable name or number of your choosing, starting with **KY**. Take recorded pictures of all valuables in your home and record all serial numbers. Keep this information in a safe place (other than at home), such as in a safe deposit box, or with a friend or relative.
- Neighborhood Watch Program:** If your neighborhood does not currently have a neighborhood watch program, please contact your local police division and ask for a District Resource Officer. They would be eager to assist you.
- Locks and Keys:** An unlocked lock is not a lock! Habitually locking your home, closing and locking garage doors when away or at night is something everyone needs to do, even when working in the yard. You should re-key door locks whenever you move into an apartment or house. Re-keying locks is relatively inexpensive. Hiding a key outside your house is **NOT** a good idea and should always be avoided.
- Shrubbery:** Are the doors and windows of your house hidden by shrubbery? If so, trim the shrubs so the burglar is denied the opportunity to hide behind them.
- Lighting:** External security lighting is important, as well as interior lights. Exclusive use of lighting when the home is unoccupied might actually tip off the burglar. It is smart to use interior lights on a timer whenever you are going to be away from home at night. Motion detectors or dusk-to-dawn lights may be considered. Leaving a radio or TV on may give the appearance someone is home.
- Admitting Strangers:** Do **NOT** let a stranger into your home until you are satisfied that you know who they are and what the purpose of their visit is. Identification of salespeople, public utilities workers, repairmen, plainclothes police officers, and stranded strangers should always be required before opening the door. A wide-angle view (190 degrees) door viewer is an absolute must if visibility of callers is not possible. Partially opening the door with a door chain should be discouraged.
- Vacation Plans:** Make planning your security a part of your vacation plans.
Secure your home and leave some lights on a timer.
Leave a key with a trusted neighbor.
Make arrangements to have your lawn mowed.
Stop mail and newspaper delivery.
Contact the police department and ask for a house watch.
Ask a neighbor to park their car in your drive while you are gone.
- Smoke Detector:** Make sure that your smoke detector is working properly. Check the batteries regularly.
- Burglar Alarms:** Alarms are an excellent tool for protecting your home, but they need to be serviced and tested periodically. Learn about the LMPD Alarm Program. Be conscious of **Louisville Metro False Alarm Ordinance §127.14**
- Firearms:** If you keep a firearm in your home, please store and handle it properly. Never leave a loaded firearm where a child can find it. Use a trigger lock to prevent a tragedy.

