



Criminals are professionals at what they do. They know how to look at a home and quickly assess whether it is an easy target. Below is a list of suggestions to reduce your risk of becoming a victim.

- 1. Do not leave your personal information (mail, bills) in the open, put these items in a cupboard or drawer.
- 2. Keep your purse or wallet out of sight and where people would not look for them.
- 3. Always keep your front door locked.
- 4. Keep screen doors locked whenever the main door is open.
- 5. Garage doors leading directly into the home should be kept locked at all times, even when you are in the house or backyard.
- 6. Chain locks are NOT recommended as security for doors. Instead, invest in a peephole, which allows you to look out but does not allow the person to see inside.
- 7. Don't leave your windows wide open. If they are being used for ventilation at night - install a securable, window stop.
- 8. Be sure both first and second story windows are closed and locked when you are not at home. Patio furniture has been used as a stepladder to gain access to upper levels of the home.
- 9. Make sure that outside lights are in good working order.
- 10. Engrave an identifying mark on your belongings - especially artwork, jewelry, expensive technology, etc. This makes it easier for police to identify and harder for criminals to sell.
- 11. Keep objects with sentimental value in a place where no one would suspect when not in use.
- 12. Take inventory of your property. Use the inventory tracker and add photos or videos.
- 13. Lock your vehicles at all times, even when in the garage, so access cannot be gained by intruders.
- 14. Keep your vehicle keys out of sight and in a location where no one would find them.

- **15. Don't allow strangers into your home. If you are hosting an event and you know strangers will be coming, place your valuable items in a secure spot, such as a locked drawer.**
- **16. Know your neighbours.**
- **17. Make sure that your home always looks lived in (e.g., newspapers/flyers picked up, grass cut, snow shovelled etc).**
- **18. When leaving a message on your phone or answering machine, do not indicate that you are not home, simply say you can't come to the phone.**
- **19. Keep any cash or valuables, which are not being used off the property. E.g. jewelry or coins in a safety deposit box. If you are keeping valuables at home, consider investing in a safe.**

Source: (Government of Ontario, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services)