



## Quick Facts:

- 85% of all residential burglaries usually occur when the home is unoccupied.<sup>1</sup>
- A home is burglarized every 12 seconds in the U.S., resulting in more than \$3.1 billion in property loss.<sup>1</sup>
- 60% of all residential burglaries occur during daylight hours.
- Residential burglaries increase 10% - 18% during the summer when many families are away on vacation.<sup>1</sup>
- The average dollar loss per burglary offense is \$2,096.<sup>1</sup>

## Don't Be A Vacation Victim

### Give your house a lived-in look

- Put automatic timers on several lights on each level of your home, on a radio and on the television. Set the timers so the lights and appliances will turn on and off randomly.
- Leave shades and blinds in the same positions they are in when you are home.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed while you're away.
- Install dusk-to-dawn or motion sensor lights on all outdoor lights.
- Cancel the newspaper.
- Have a neighbor get your mail and any deliveries, or have the post office hold them until you return.
- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway while you are gone.
- Have someone place your garbage cans at the curb for normal pickup and then return them to your garage.

### Inform as few people as possible of your vacation plans

- Tell the Sheriff's Office or your local police department you are away on vacation, and who has a spare key to your house.
- Don't post your plans on social media sites.
- Leave your contact and itinerary information with a trusted neighbor and ask that neighbor to keep an eye on your property.
- Leave your normal message on your answering machine.
- Don't turn on email auto-reply to indicate you are not at home.

### Make sure your home is secure when you leave

- Lock all outside doors with deadbolt locks.
- Lock your windows and the garage door.
- Make sure your smoke and burglar alarms are functioning properly.
- Place metal rods in the tracks of sliding windows and doors for extra security.
- Securely fasten pet entrances onto your patio.
- Make a home inventory list complete with photos and video.

<sup>1</sup> FBI Uniform Crime Report