

Hazlet Township Police

Keeping your family safe

What you can do...

Tips on Preventing Burglary

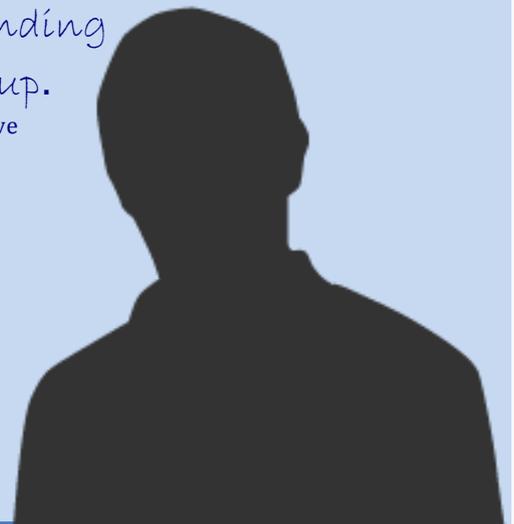
HOME BURGLARY

By far, the most common threat to our home is burglary. According to the FBI, a burglary occurs somewhere in the United States every 15.4 seconds. By definition, the crime of burglary is a non-confrontational property crime that occurs when we are not at home. However, becoming a burglary victim can leave a family feeling vulnerable and violated. To avoid becoming a burglary victim, it is important to first gain an understanding of who commits them and why.

The majority of home and apartment burglaries occur during the daytime when most people are away at work or school. The summer months of July and August have the most burglaries with February having the fewest crimes. Burglaries are committed most often by young males under 25 years of age looking for items that are small, expensive, and can easily be converted to cash

*Many a man is saved from
being a thief by finding
everything locked up.*

~Edgar Watson Howe



Favorite items are cash, jewelry, guns, watches, laptop computers, DVRs, video game players, DVDs and other small electronic devices are high on the list. Quick cash is needed for living expenses and drugs. Statistics tell us that 70% of the burglars use some amount force to enter a dwelling, but their preference is to gain easy access through an open door or window. Ordinary household tools like screwdrivers, channel-lock pliers, small pry bars, and small hammers are most often used by burglars. Burglars continue to flourish because police can only clear about 13% of all reported burglaries and rarely catch the thief in the act.

Although home burglaries may seem random in occurrence, they actually involve a selection process. The burglar's selection process is simple. Choose an unoccupied home with the easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, and with the best escape routes. What follows is a list of suggestions to minimize your risk by making your home unattractive to potential burglars.

HAZLET TOWNSHIP POLICE

255 Middle Rd
Hazlet NJ 07730

Call (732) 264-6565 or 911 for emergencies



CHECK YOUR LOCKS

Doors & Windows



In almost half of all completed burglaries, thieves enter through unlocked doors and windows.

Commit **to locking every door and window every time** you're not home.

This is your first line of defense. Installing a quality door lock and dead bolt set is a great start but it's not enough you have to use them.

If you want to leave your windows open while running to the store then install window locks which will keep your window from opening fully. Window locks will allow the window to open approximately 2" and then stop it from opening

SECURE OBVIOUS ENTRANCES

94% of successful burglars enter through the ground floor. 70% enter through the front or back door.

Concentrate your efforts on making these areas as secure as possible.

Consider installing:

1. Flood lights on every entry door
2. Dead-bolts on every entry door.
3. Peep holes on every entry door.

Cameras or No cameras?

Camera systems monitoring and recording the outside doors and windows are a great way to deter thieves from burglarizing your home. But, it is also expensive.

If you install cameras be sure and keep them clean and operating correctly. **Coverage is key**, outside doors and windows, driveway, & the street in front of your home.

MAKE YOUR PLACE LOOK OCCUPIED

Burglars prefer to target residences that are unoccupied. Create the illusion that you're home by:

1. Setting interior lights, TV's, and stereos on timers.
2. Parking your spare vehicle in your driveway instead of garage.
3. Alert the post office if you're going on vacation so your mail doesn't pile up.



DITCH the HIDDEN KEY

That spare key under your doormat is a free pass to any would-be thief.

Instead, give your spare key to a neighbor you trust.

.....
Your not going to find a spot the a thief hasn't found before. If you need to secure a key outside then use a lock box similar to those used by realtors

CONSIDER AN ALARM SYSTEM

In a survey of 400+ career burglars, **83% said they would determine if an alarm was present before attempting a burglary.**

If you're seriously concerned about the safety of your home, a home security system can be a powerful deterrent.

THEY'LL BE BACK

If you're unlucky enough to be burgled, be aware. **76% of burglars return within 30 days to attempt another burglary.**

If you've been burgled, change your locks, lock your doors and windows, make your residence appear as occupied as possible and consider getting an alarm system.

Other forms are available at the Hazlet Twp. Website.
<http://www.hazletwp.org>

- Senior Citizen and Disabled residents contact form
- Vacation form (Let us know you'll be away)
- Special Needs Registry
- Traffic Complaint Form
- Business Emergency Contact Form
- Bicycle Registration Form

Operation Identification

This is a program supported by most police agencies. They recommend that you engrave your drivers' license, not your social security number, on televisions, stereos, computers, and small electronic appliances. They suggest this so they can identify and locate you if your stolen items are recovered. We suggest that you go way beyond this step

We recommend that you photograph your valuables in their locations around your home and make a list of the make, model, and serial numbers. This is very important for proof when filing insurance claims. You should keep this list in a safety deposit box or with a relative for safe keeping. Keep receipts of the larger items in case you need to prove the value of the items for insurance purposes. Beyond that, We recommend that you photocopy important documents and the contents of your wallet. You will be thankful that you took these steps in case your home is ever destroyed by fire or flood, is ransacked, or if your wallet is lost or stolen.

- Identify your valuables by engraving your drivers' license number
- Photograph and record the serial numbers of all valuables
- Photocopy the contents of your wallet and other documents
- Store the copies in a safe deposit box or with a relative

Home Security Checklist

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked “no” indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home’s security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.

Exterior Doors

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house—even if it’s just for a few minutes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Garage and Sliding Door Security

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The sliding glass door has a strong, working key locks. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Protecting Windows

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outdoor Security

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

continued on back

- Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening—whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.
- Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

Yes No

- At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.
- The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

Yes No

- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.
- Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.