



Rancho Palos Verdes
Neighborhood Watch
 NW-9 Home Burglary Prevention

You and your immediate neighbors are your first line of defense against burglaries. The best deterrent to crime is a good Neighborhood Watch program and getting to know your neighbors.

- **Notify your close neighbors and Block Captain to watch your house while you are gone. Ask them to check around your house.**
- Have a close neighbor pick up your mail, flyers, and newspapers when you are away.
- Become familiar with vehicles that belong on your street and note and record license numbers of those that don't. Especially watch and report vehicles with no license or paper plates.
- Don't post your vacation plans on social media before or during your absence. Several residences have been burglarized while the owners were gone. Also, don't post your party plans as you may attract uninvited and undesirable people.
- Respond immediately if something on your neighbors' property doesn't look right - a stranger knocking on their doors, in their side yards, sounds of glass being smashed, or sounds of distress.
- Take photos of suspicious people or vehicles, even while walking around the neighborhood.
- If you are home, keep doors, windows and your garage door closed, and vehicles locked.
- Put blocks in your windows and doors so they can't be opened.
- Keep side gates and access to back yards locked except when using them.
- Burglars often now enter through second story doors and windows. They get there via ladders on the property, or by stacking patio furniture. Why? Because burglars know that most people don't have alarm systems on upper floors – you should include alarms on the second floors.
- Request identification from any stranger that comes to your door and never let them in. Request identification from utility workers, then call their office to confirm that they need access.
- Knock-knock burglars test to see if anyone is home. Answer the door, but do not open it. Then notify the Sheriff's Dept. and your Block Captain for networking to the neighborhood.
- Don't leave workers alone in the house or yard and never give them a key.
- Burglars first go to bedrooms, then closets and office areas looking for valuables. **Keep cash, jewelry, and other valuables in a bolted-down safe or hide them outside of the master bedroom –burglars rarely look in children's rooms or garages.**
- Keep valuables away from locations where someone can see them by looking through a window.
- Install outdoor lighting that can be turned on if you hear a prowler or put them on motion sensors.
- Install security cameras to monitor access to your home and the street. Make sure all security devices are active. **Too many have been off when a burglary occurred.**
- Use randomly sequenced light and TV or radio when you are away to make it appear you are home.
- Keep your car remote near your bed and utilize the panic button when you hear noises at night.
- Install a home security system with audible alarm but realize that burglars are in and out in minutes.
- During hot summer nights when residents keep their windows open, "hot prowlers" search for open windows, slip in and steal computers, jewelry, etc. They slip out and you don't even know until the next day that you were burglarized. Keep windows of those unoccupied rooms closed at night.

If you or a neighbor are burglarized, notify the Sheriff's Dept. immediately - (310) 539 1661 - then notify your Block Captain and Area Coordinator who will immediately network to all Neighborhood Watch members in the area, asking that residents check their cameras for possible video coverage of the crime.