

HOME SAFETY TIPS

The West Valley City Police Department would like to share some tips to make your home more secure. Making your home safer doesn't mean you have to install expensive alarms. Home security starts with properly locked doors and windows, and well lighted homes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR HOME

- Please, please, please keep doors, windows and garages shut and locked when leaving your home. Even when you are home please keep your garage door shut, if you are going to be inside.



- Many burglars target rear doors or windows for entry, using force. These burglaries frequently take place during day time hours and the items taken often consist of laptops, gaming systems, small electronics, jewelry and guns.
- **Exterior Doors** – These doors should be metal or solid wood, with strong hinges on the inside of the door and non-removable or hidden pins. Having doors that feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- **Locks** – Always keep doors and windows locked. Use quality keyed knobs as well as deadbolts. When choosing a dead-bolt, look for bolts that extend at least one inch when in the locked position, hardened steel insert and reinforced strike plate with extra long mounting screws.
- **Windows** – An easy, inexpensive way to secure your windows is a wooden or metal dowel. Place the dowels in all windows and sliding glass doors.
- **Sliding Glass Doors** – To improve security on existing doors, you can adjust the track clearances on the doors so they can't be pushed out of their tracks; or put a piece of wood or metal bar in the track of the closed door to prevent the door from opening even if the lock is jimmied or removed.
- **Shrubs and Landscaping** – Your home's walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the main entrance and away from private areas. The landscaping should provide maximum visibility to and from your house. Trim shrubbery that could conceal criminal activity near doors and windows. Provide light on areas of dense shrubs and trees that could serve as hiding places. Cut back tree limbs that could help thieves climb into windows, and keep yard fencing low enough to avoid giving criminals places to hide.

We look out for each other!

SUGGESTIONS FOR REPORTING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

(Behavior that merits a call to the police department)

- Slow moving vehicles, possibly “casing” homes
- Parked vehicles that are occupied
- Abandoned vehicles
- Strangers walking along the side yard of houses or going into the backyard
- Excessive personal property stored in cars or garages
- Someone going door-to-door in a residential area
- Forcible entry to a home
- Waiting or loitering in front of a home
- Please make a note of suspicious people or vehicles. Write down the physical description of people and vehicle description, along with license plates, if possible.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- Starting or participating in a Neighborhood Watch Group allows neighbors to get to know each other and to assist the police by having more eyes to watch your particular neighborhood. You are the “eyes and ears” of the community.
- Allow neighbors to help when you go out of town. Have your mail and newspapers picked up daily. Also have your interior and exterior lights turned on/off daily.
- The West Valley City web site has personal and home safety check lists as well as a Home Inventory Form. Please feel free to use them.

www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods



In case of an emergency call

911

For non-emergency reports call

(801) 840-4000

Emergency Dispatch

Non-emergency Dispatch

911

(801) 840-4000



WEST VALLEY CITY
Neighborhood Watch
www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods

Police Dept.
Community Services Section
(801) 955-4100
www.wvc-ut.gov/cso

Community Preservation Dept.
Code Enforcement Division
(801) 963-3563
www.wvc-ut.gov/codeenforcement

Public Relations Division
Neighborhood Services Office
(801) 963-3285
www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods