



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe

Crime Prevention at Home

Safety in our city

Ottawa is regarded by many as one of the safest cities in the world, but that's no reason to let your guard down. While the Ottawa Police Service will always be available to respond to crime, we need your active participation to help prevent crime.

When it comes to their homes, Ottawa residents have told us that they're concerned with break and enter and various property crimes like vandalism. The following information provides a good start for addressing these issues and raising awareness about crime prevention in general. We can't do it alone — get informed, get involved and make crime prevention part of your everyday life.

Start with the basics

- Take advantage of the Ottawa Police's **Home Security Inspection Program** where, at your request, police representatives will visit your home (house, condo, apartment, etc.) to provide a free safety audit — assessing ways to make your home safer.
- Start and maintain an accurate household inventory, and use **Operation Identification** — a free engraving program offered by the Ottawa Police — to mark your property.
- Get involved in **Neighbourhood Watch** — it's one of the best ways to meet your neighbours and make your home and community safer.
- Contact the Ottawa Police about **Child Print** — a program for parents or guardians who want to learn about and practice safety tips aimed at protecting their child or children.

Securing your home

- When moving into a new home, be sure to have locks re-keyed or replaced. Keep duplicate keys to a minimum.
- Security alarm systems should be used in addition to, not in place of, other security measures.
- House numbers should be in a well-lit area and easily visible to neighbours and emergency response units.
- Exterior doors should be solid core. Hinges should be on the inside. Seal gaps between the door and frame in order to prevent a jimmy bar from being used.



- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and other entrances into the house from the garage or basement.
- Install wide-angle viewers for exterior doors.
- While proper locks on sliding glass doors are recommended, inserting a fitted piece of wood or metal in the door's lower track improves security.
- Secure basement and ground level windows, as well as other possible points of entry, such as pet doors and window-mounted air conditioners.
- Check references of people you employ to work in and around your home.
- List only surname and initials in the telephone book.
- Have adequate insurance coverage on your home and contents.

Interior Security

- Leave doors and windows locked whenever possible.
- Use curtains on basement and garage windows to prevent others from shopping for goods.
- Store credit cards, identification and other valuables in a safe place, and use a safety deposit box for seldom used valuables.
- Avoid leaving house and car keys available to a thief or intruder.
- Do not leave purses or valuables in view of persons at your door.
- Insist on seeing identification from sales and service people.
- Consider purchasing a home security system.

Exterior Security

- Keep tools, ladders and garbage pails locked away.
- Keep bicycles, barbecues and lawn equipment securely stored.
- Have adequate exterior lighting.
- Trim trees and shrubs that could easily hide intruders.
- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside — they can be found.
- Don't use a nameplate outside of your house with your full name. A criminal can use this information to look up your number in the phone book and call to see if you are home.

Vacation security tips

- Inform trusted neighbours or relatives of your vacation plans and where you can be reached. Leave a key with them so they can check your house.
- Have a neighbour park a car in your driveway, and pick up your mail, newspapers and flyers.
- Ask a neighbour to put one of their garbage bags in front of your house on collection day.
- Don't order merchandise for delivery while you are away, and cancel regular deliveries.
- Don't talk about your vacation plans with strangers or service people.
- Use your work address on your luggage tags so potential criminals won't know where your empty house is.
- Secure or remove valuables and firearms from your home.
- Leave your house with a lived-in look. Use automatic timers to turn on lights and radios.
- Have your lawn cut or snow removed while you are away.
- If you come home and see a door ajar or a window broken, call the police immediately. NEVER enter the dwelling. If it looks suspicious — don't hesitate — call police.

To learn more about crime prevention, or take advantage of crime prevention programs, contact your local Community Police Centre. See the "Red Pages" in the Ottawa telephone directory or visit the Ottawa Police Web site at www.ottawapolice.ca for a full list of Ottawa Police services and contact information.



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Make the Right Call!

Every call is important, but not all calls are life-threatening, and not all calls are police emergencies. Whatever the case, we're here to help. You have a role to play: "Make the Right Call."

9-1-1

Life-threatening emergency
or crime in progress

230-6211

TTY 232-1123
Other emergencies

236-1222

Community Police Centres
and all other enquiries

