

# Honolulu Police Department

*making Honolulu the safest place to live, work, and play*

## Home Security Tips

- Always lock all exterior doors and windows before leaving your house, even if it's for a short trip.
- Make your home look occupied by leaving on lights and radios, and make it difficult to break in.
- Always lock your garage doors and sheds.
- Don't tempt a thief; store lawn mowers, mopeds/bicycles, surfboards or any valuables out of sight.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting near doors and dark areas on your property to prevent concealment of intruders.
- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places – burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "gone shopping".
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number or other personal identifiers with an engraver. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home – this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Install a safe for items such as cash, jewelry or firearms. All safes should be bolted down to the floor/foundation to prevent being taken.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.
- Louvered windows are intended for ventilation, not security. The most common way burglars make entry into homes in Hawaii is the removal of louvers. Glue glass louvers or purchase locking clips to increase security.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.
- Dogs are good deterrents. Most intruders will avoid a house with a dog.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately.
- Form a Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW). We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglaries and other crimes.

## **Keeping Safe While You Are At Home:**

- Don't open your door to strangers, unexpected repair people or deliveries. Never allow a stranger into your home even for an emergency. If it's any emergency tell the stranger that you will make the call to police for them.
- Always ask for a company ID. Call the company or police to verify if you are suspicious.
- Don't give personal or financial information over the phone.
- Hang up on nuisance callers and report them to police.
- Have your Social Security or Pension Check deposited directly into your account.
- Keep money and securities in a bank.
- Mark all valuables with an ID number.
- Do laundry, shopping or errands in groups.
- Have your keys out and ready.
- Have the driver watch until you are inside.
- While working in the yard/garden outdoors, secure your front and back doors. Some burglars distract homeowners and make entry through another door.

## **If Your Home Is Broken Into:**

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- Do not enter – the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use your cell phone or your neighbor's phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious person(s).
- If you encounter or see someone that broke into your or a neighbors house, do not attempt to apprehend them. Call Police with a description of the suspect and the direction that they were last seen.

The MOST important thing YOU can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a CRIME or any SUSPICIOUS activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood.