

Business Security

If you own or operate a business, make sure it is safe and secure. Your customers want to feel safe when they visit, and they are likely to return if their visit is positive.

This quick prevention brochure is provided as an easy way to ensure that your business is safe and secure.

What is the key to security?

It is the design and layout of the business that eliminates or reduces criminal behavior and at the same time allows passing motorists and the police department to “keep an eye out” for your property.

- Locate check-out counters near the front of the store, clearly visible from the outside so that employees can better watch all activities.
- Clearly mark public paths. Make private areas harder for non-employees to access.
- Use signs to direct patrons to parking and entrances.
- Prevent easy access to the roof or fire escape from the ground by trimming trees adjacent to the building. Secure roof access and fire escape ladders with locking covers.
- Keep parking areas well lit in the evening.
- Avoid covering front windows with advertisements.
- Advertise alarm systems by placing stickers on front and rear windows.

Maintain your property

Property maintenance is an important part of your over-all security. A run down business can attract more criminals than customers.

Follow these simple suggestions to maintain a customer-friendly business:

- ⇒ Keep buildings and walks clean and repaired.
- ⇒ Maintain parking areas to a high standard without pot-holes or trash.
- ⇒ Remove faded posters, broken signs.
- ⇒ Keep plants and all landscaping in good condition.

ALARMS

- If you are considering purchasing an alarm system, contact several reputable companies and get a full assessment of your needs. If you do purchase an alarm system, consider adding the following features:
 - Panic buttons (in case of robbery)
 - Fire/smoke detectors
 - Monitored system (contacts law enforcement if alarm is activated)

Keep your business information up to date. The police department should have emergency contact information on file. This information will help if something happens after hours. Check with your local police department to see if they keep business information on file.

Consider the “nuts and bolts” of security

The following are suggestions to provide a burglar-resistant environment for you and your employees:

- Utilize deadbolt locks with a minimum 1" throw bolt containing a hardened, saw-resistant steel insert on all exterior doors.
- Pin the hinges on any exterior doors that swing out. Simply remove the center screw from each side of the hinge and insert a metal pin or headless screw on one side. This will prevent the door from being removed.
- Replace hollow-core doors with solid-core doors. Replace weak door frames or reinforce them with steel or concrete.
- Protect glass in the door with mesh or a polycarbonate sheet. To secure windows, consider adding clear polycarbonate sheets. If this is too expensive, consider roll down covers, grates or bars.

CCTV (Closed Circuit Television)

CCTV is another tool your business could have in place. Many times video evidence is captured and suspects are caught after police recognize offenders. The video provides solid evidence but it can also act as a deterrent to keep burglars away. If you have CCTV make sure the recorder is secure and a tape is recording.

Quick Tips for Business Security

- ☑ Provide rear access to shops if rear parking is offered.
- ☑ If possible, install rear windows to face parking areas for increased visibility.
- ☑ Do not cover up windows with advertising or display material.
- ☑ Use interior shelving and displays no higher than five feet, even lower in front of windows.
- ☑ Fully illuminate the exterior of the building and grounds at night.
- ☑ Design loading areas that avoid creating hiding places for people and merchandise.
- ☑ Maintain clear visibility from the store to the street, sidewalk, parking areas and passing vehicles.
- ☑ Place all entrances under visual surveillance.
- ☑ Place any pay telephones within clear view of employees.
- ☑ Consider installing an alarm system.

This brochure provides some quick suggestions to make your business more secure and undesirable to would-be burglars.

Make a statement with your business. If the building appears to be a good target for a burglar then you may become a target.

Talk to your local police department for more suggestions on business security. Your local agency may have someone available to conduct a business security survey.

Dial 911 For Emergencies

Information compliments of:

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www.macungiepd.org

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