

## **Around the Home Safety**

Being a victim of burglary is bad enough. But giving the burglar the tools to carry out the deed is a big slap in the face.

We can take away the means and tools these criminals use by keeping items locked up or removed all together.

Common items such as ladders propped up against the side of the house, vehicles backed up close to low garage roofs, child toys near the house can all be used to assist with entry to your home.

Park the car at the end of the driveway instead of right up against the house. This will prevent the car or SUV from being a ladder. It will also keep vehicle further down the driveway making it more obvious if a vehicle is being loaded with their loot.

Shovel handles are tough. They can be used to pry open windows and doors. The shovel blade itself can be used to scoop up items within reach inside a window or on a countertop.

Lock up garden tools and ladders. Put away the child's play set if you are leaving for an extended period of time.

Consider installing barrel bolts on garage doors in addition to the deadbolts. Lock garage doors even if they are operated remotely.

Some of these simple tasks can greatly reduce your odds of becoming a victim of burglary.

The information in this brochure is a guideline to assist you in making your vacation away from home relaxing.

Burglars and thieves will look for certain indicators that tell them your house is empty. If you eliminate some of these indicators, you make yourself less of a risk.

Contact the Macungie Police Department and complete a vigilance request. Be part of a crime watch group.

Your neighbors can watch your home while you are away and report any suspicious activity to the police.

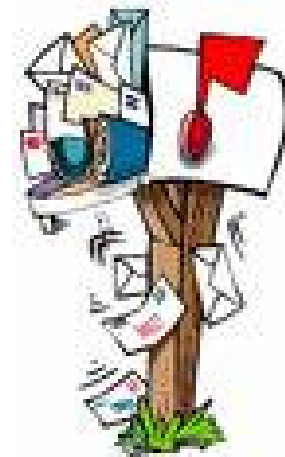
## **Compliments of**

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## **Summer Security and Safety**

We are not home. Please rob us!!!!



## Home Security

Nationwide statistics indicate most burglaries happen in July and August, when families leave their houses empty and vulnerable.

So before you hit the road, make it a point to check some of these simple areas to keep criminals out of your home.

- Lighting
- Locks
- Alarms
- Utilities
- Mail/deliveries
- Garage doors

This list seems to be common sense to most but looking at the statistics again we see that these areas are the most common breached areas for the burglar.

We all lock our doors when we go on vacation but do we take that extra precaution? Do we set the alarm?

This pamphlet outlines only a few of the steps you can take to ensure your home is safe while you are away.

Lighting is the first item on the list. A home that looks lived in is not as vulnerable as one that is dark. Invest in a timer for lights. Timers are relatively inexpensive and can be programmed to turn on and off when you want them to. Consider using a timer on a radio to create some noise. They are not only for lights.

Second story windows should be locked when away. Burglars can easily find a ladder and climb onto a second story to gain access to your home.

Stop mail and expected deliveries from arriving at your home. If you can't stop a delivery, have a trusted neighbor retrieve a package for you.

Disable automatic garage door openers if you have one. Be sure to remove extra door openers from any vehicle left behind. Burglars can break a car window or pick the lock and use the opener to get inside your home. Remove the emergency release cord from garage door openers.

Landscaping should be arranged. Tall grass is not only a violation of borough ordinances but it indicates a vacant home to a burglar.

Turn off your water valves and padlock utility boxes if you are able.

Secure your valuables wisely. Burglars will look under beds, in sock drawers, between books and other common hiding places. Consider a safe deposit box to store valuables.

Place an extra block of wood in window sashes and patio doors. Some window sashes have pin holes that allow you to insert a dowel for extra protection.

## Travel Security

If you are planning to travel outside the country try not to advertise your Nationality. Criminals have been know to target tourists. You can make yourself less of a target by following some of these simple things.

- Copy important documents and leave them at the hotel or scan them in email format so you can retrieve them online
- Use or purchase a cell phone with international calling rates
- Trust your judgment. If an area does not seem safe it may not be.
- Ask the hotel for recommendations of taxi's, restaurants and reputable tourist locations.
- Find a secure location to exchange foreign currency. Behind closed doors eliminates would be thieves from seeing how much money you have.
- Try to dress down. Don't look like a tourist. Wear clothing that is not so brightly colored.
- Keep a close eye on baggage to and from the airport. Shuttle services stop in areas where local thieves blend in and take bags while you are not looking.