

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION



Commercial burglaries are often crimes of opportunity that occur after your business closes. With a few simple steps, you can take an active role in reducing your risk of becoming a victim.

First, consider how your property looks from the burglar's view. The outward appearance and security of the building may determine if a business will be burglarized. An unlocked door or open window is an opportunity for a burglar to strike. Every opening represents a potential security breach and should be inspected. Update or install locks, lighting and alarms.

Second, establish a closing routine or check list to make sure employees lock doors, windows and set the alarm. Build a rapport with nearby business owners to discuss problems or nuisances and then identify solutions that benefit everyone.

DOORS & LOCKS:

- ◇ Secure doors, windows, skylights and other openings with high quality locks.
- ◇ Locks are not burglar proof. They make entry harder.
- ◇ Double cylinder, dead-bolt locks with one inch throw bolts are preferred for doors.
- ◇ Install cylinder guards and strike plates to slow down forced entry and prevent "jimmying."
- ◇ Use heavy-duty solid construction for rear doors with bars and u-brackets secured to the structure for added strength.

ALARM SYSTEMS:

- ◇ Alarms are an entry detection and notification tool – not a physical barrier.
- ◇ Research alarm companies and request a system which best fits your needs.
- ◇ Hire a professional to install your alarm.
- ◇ Have clearly visible alarm signage.
- ◇ Test your system regularly.
- ◇ Train staff to avoid false alarms.

WINDOWS:

- ◇ Ensure all windows are closed and locked at the end of the business day.
- ◇ Remove merchandise from display windows at night.
- ◇ Install burglar-resistant glass, wire mesh or iron bars on windows.
- ◇ Rearrange merchandise so employees have unobstructed views outside the business.
- ◇ Windows should offer light and visibility - NOT easy access.

LIGHTING:

- ◇ Light is one of the best crime deterrents.
- ◇ Use low-watt lights inside and bright lights outside.
- ◇ Illuminate all entry points and exterior sides of your business. Include alley and parking lot.

TIPS

Lock your business at night.

Proper lighting deters crime.

Use your alarm system.

Work with neighboring businesses.

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FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911