



Lawrenceville Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association

Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

Courtesy of the Lawrenceville Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. For more information about the Lawrenceville Citizen's Police Academy, visit the website. <http://lawrencevillega.org/441/citizens-police-academy>

Home

- Always lock doors and windows.
- Invest in high-security locks, solid entry doors and laminated windows and upgraded strike plates and screws.
- Install bright outdoor lighting with motion detection. Trim bushes and trees so burglars can't hide and so branches can't block lighting.
- Can you see the person at the door without opening it? A peep hole would be a good addition to your door.
- If you have an alarm system, use it. Post warning signs or window decals on your property.
- If you suspect an intruder is in your home, don't enter. Call 911 immediately.
- Consider investing in a 'Smart' doorbell that communicates with your cell phone when someone rings the bell.
- Record serial numbers on property (e.g. Weapons, computers, power tools etc.).
- Secure valuables in a safe place. Secure Lawn equipment in a garage or storage building. Keep it locked at all times.
- Always have access to emergency numbers. (Police, Fire and Poison control)
- Always have an escape plan in case of fire or emergencies.
- Always have a working phone and flashlight.
- Check smoke detectors regularly.

While vacationing

- Notify trusted neighbors of the days and times you will be gone and ask them to keep a watchful eye on your home.
- Don't post your vacation information online before or during your travels. Wait until you return to comment on the vacation or to post pictures.
- Before leaving make sure all doors, windows and other points of entry are closed and locked
- Don't let your home appear to be vacant. Leave blinds/curtains in the usual positions
- Place some lights and a T.V. or radio on a timer. Have them come on at times someone is typically home
- If having a house-sitter or someone else visit your home while you are gone ask them to come at random times to avoid setting a pattern.
- Do not allow mail to pile up, have someone collect it or ask the post office to hold your mail while you are gone.
- Allow your neighbors to park their vehicles in your driveway – this gives the appearance that someone is home.

During the Holidays

- Don't load your trash pickup area with evidence of high dollar purchases, such as TV boxes, etc. This lets potential thieves know there could be a big payday at your house. Break down boxes, cut them up or take them to the dump or a recycling station.
- Don't leave packages in plain sight in your car. Put them in the trunk or carry them in as soon as possible.
- Never put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- Use automatic timers when you are gone to turn indoor lights on and off.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- Don't load yourself down with packages going to and from your car, this makes you an easy target and makes it more difficult for you to defend yourself.
- Carry only the credit cards you intend to use, leave others at home.
- Carry your purse close to your body with the flap facing your body. Shorten the straps or use a fanny pack instead.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Don't flash your cash.
- Burglars know to look for the spare key near the front entrance. Give your spare key to a trusted neighbor instead of hiding it.
- Don't post the family name on the mailbox or house. A quick lookup can get your number and allow a burglar to confirm that you are not home.
- Don't leave messages on your answering machine that indicate you are away for the Holidays.