More tips to fight crime @ home

Trim bushes and trees
Overgrown bushes and trees give a thief the luxury of lots of hiding places.
- Trim bushes or branches away from doors and windows.
- Trim bushes to below 3 feet from the ground so a burglar can’t hide behind them.
- Consider low-growing varieties when planting new bushes; this also reduces maintenance.
- Keep tree branches trimmed to at least 7 feet off the ground to increase visibility.
- Place the right size plant/tree in the right location so when mature it will not block windows or become a ladder to a second floor window.

Consider alarm systems
Alarm systems are a good way to secure a home, and are best combined with all CPTED security measures. Few burglars want to try a house that has good lighting, trimmed landscaping, an active Neighborhood Watch, security hardware, and an alarm system. It’s just too strong.
- Make sure you feel comfortable in operating the alarm system you choose.
- Look in the phone book or on-line for security system companies to give the best advice on a system.
- Audible alarms are good because when activated they can scare an intruder away.

Mark valuables and possessions
Marked property makes it harder for the burglar to sell and easier for police to recover.
- As an identifying mark, use your Driver's License number prefaced by WA (the two-letter abbreviation of our state) and ending with “DL” for Driver’s License.
- Anything that would be damaged by engraving should be photographed, with a short description of the item written on the back of the photo. Store in a safe place. Police will then get a detailed description of the stolen, unmarked valuables.

Start a Neighborhood Watch
Observant neighbors who report suspicious activity can really spoil a burglar’s plans.
- Organize and participate in a Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Neighborhood Watch will enhance the quality of life, while creating an intolerable environment for thieves.
- Call Safe Streets at 253-272-6824 or Hilltop Action Coalition at 253-590-8747 for information.

The offbeat and fun tips below...

Nook
When homeowners leave radios playing while away, thieves are inclined to think someone’s home.

Keys
It’s best not to leave keys outside at all. Leave them with friends or neighbors you trust.

Tip
If you lose your keys while someone is in your house, keep the key to the car an put the house key in a different place.

Mark valuable possessions before you’re robbed.

Tips
- Overgrown trees are like a burglar’s umbrellas.
- Overgrown trees can make your home look empty.
- Overgrown trees make your house look like someone’s home.
- Overgrown trees can serve as a ladder to your house.

Mark property to make it harder for thieves to sell.

Mark your meaningful objects with your Driver's License number prefaced by WA (the two-letter abbreviation of our state) and ending with “DL” for Driver’s License.

Mark valuables and possessions at your home.

Mark marked property:
- Use a permanent marker.
- Use the sculpture method.
- Use the engraving method.

Mark marks?
Mark marks are effective.

Mark security marks:
- Mark security marks:
- Use a permanent marker.
- Use the sculpture method.
- Use the engraving method.

Mark security marks:
- Mark security marks:
- Use a permanent marker.
- Use the sculpture method.
- Use the engraving method.

Mark security marks:
- Mark security marks:
- Use a permanent marker.
- Use the sculpture method.
- Use the engraving method.
CPTED home safety tips

A home is less likely to be burglarized when Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted) ideas are used.

CPTED is the proper design and maintenance of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incident of crime and improve the quality of life. When properly used, CPTED tactics have been proven to reduce crimes of opportunity.

A home is less likely to be burglarized when properly used, CPTED tactics have been proven to reduce crimes of opportunity.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted) ideas are used.

A home is less likely to be burglarized when properly used, CPTED tactics have been proven to reduce crimes of opportunity.

Design or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted) ideas are used.

A home is less likely to be burglarized when properly used, CPTED tactics have been proven to reduce crimes of opportunity.

A couple of lights left on at night suggests that someone’s home. Be sure to put them on timers and regularly change the time they go off and on.

Use a quick-release mechanism for easy exiting in case of fire. Call the Tacoma Fire Department Prevention and Preparedness Bureau at 253-591-5740 for information on safety code requirements.

Well-secured sliding glass windows

Flathead screws installed in the upper track prevent thieves from sliding or lifting the window open. Removable pins in the frames will hold the window in place.

Deadbolt locks on doors

Secure doors with all-metal deadbolt locks. Single-cylinder deadbolts conform to the fire code for residential buildings, allowing safety as well as security. Be sure that the deadbolt throw goes at least 1 inch into the door frame and that the “strike plate” is installed with at least 3 inch wood screws.

Stiff door frame

Reinforce the door frame by filling empty spaces between the door jamb and 2x4 stud with a solid piece of wood and shims. This will prevent a thief from pushing or prying back the doorframe.

Exterior house lights

Security lights with a motion or photo cell detector will light up the side area of your house. Make sure you have lights on in the back of the house too.

Fences

Modify wood fences so that they are at least 10 inches off the ground so that anyone hiding behind them can then be seen or use transparent fencing, like chain link.

Garage door

When the garage is securely locked, thieves must resort to a more difficult means of entering a home. It also keeps them from stealing the property stored in the garage.

Easily readable house numbers

It’s easier for emergency services to locate a home in a hurry if the house numbers are large and legible. Did you know that in the City of Tacoma, properties are required to have address numbers on them? Put house numbers in back of your house too, if there’s an alley.

Siding glass doors

A security bar and flathead screws installed in the upper track prevent thieves from sliding or lifting the door open. Removable pins in the frames will hold the door in place as well.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.

Solid core exterior doors

Use the right door for the right application. When the door is metal or solid wood, breaking it down becomes difficult. Glass next to the doors should be protected with an unbreakable plastic material.

Porch/walkway lights

High-efficiency lights with a photo cell or timer will help keep unwelcome guests from approaching your walkway or front door.

Door eye viewers

Thieves know they may not gain admittance to a home when the occupants get a chance to see them before opening the door. If the door doesn’t have a window, it should have a wide angle 180° lens. Install a second door eye viewer hole at a height suitable for children too.

BEWARE decals

“Beware” decals can warn that the property has been marked, or that the home is equipped with an alarm system.