

## When you discover your premises have been burglarized

- Immediately call the police-advise them a burglary has occurred. If you arrive at home and notice an open door or window, do not enter the home. Allow the police to clear the home first.
- Do not touch anything with your hands. Leave everything just as it is.
- Provide the police with an accurate description of all property that was taken.
- Fully cooperate with the police in their investigation of the burglary.
- Call your insurance company if you are covered with burglary insurance. Report your loss and discuss any indemnification you are entitled to receive.
- Carefully study and evaluate how and where the burglar gained entry into your house and take immediate security measures to see that it never happens again.



### Watsonville PD Crime

**Prevention Unit** encourages you to:

- Immediately report suspicious and criminal activity to the Watsonville Police.
- Get involved and Volunteer in Watsonville
- Get to know your local police officers. We are here to serve you. Let's keep a positive relationship between the community and local law enforcement.

### Watsonville Police

215 Union Street  
Watsonville, CA 95075

**Business Phone: (831) 768-3300**  
**Non-Emergency Dispatch: (831) 471-1151**



## Watsonville Police Department



## Burglary and Theft Prevention

# Residential

Burglary victims often feel vulnerable and violated as their personal space has been invaded. Residential burglaries statistically occur during the day while families are at work or school .

## Ways to discourage a Residential Burglar

### Bright Ideas

Install lights and light fixtures outside, and use them at night. Trim shrubs, and make sure your house number is visible for immediate police response.

### Doors & Windows

Always lock your doors and windows, and if you keep a spare key, give it to a trustworthy neighbor. Never hide a key outside. Use solid core or metal exterior doors, dead-bolt locks, and install a peephole for extra security.

### Landscaping

Trim tree branches 7 feet off the ground, and shrubs 3 feet from the ground. Use motion sensors and exterior flood-lights. Eliminate any possible hiding places.

### Personal Information

Keep valuables in a safe deposit box, and use a locking mailbox.

### Dealing with Strangers

Never let strangers into your home, verify worker ID's. Never give workers keys or leave notes on the door.

### While on Vacation

Hire a house sitter. Ask neighbors to help with trash bins and newspaper. Install an alarm system, and indoor light timers. Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway and have deliveries sent to their house.



# Vehicle

Vehicle burglaries and thefts from vehicles can occur anywhere there are vehicles present. This includes places where there is a large concentration of vehicles like shopping centers and apartment complexes, down to a single vehicle parked on a residential street.

## Ways to prevent Vehicle Burglaries/Thefts from Vehicles

### Remove all valuables

A thief cannot take what is not there. By removing items, you eliminate opportunity. Don't make your vehicle a target.



### Completely close all windows

Even a small crack in your window can go a long way if your perpetrator has the right tools. Better to not give them anything to work with.

### Lock all Doors

An unlocked door is an invitation to enter your vehicle. Your vehicle and property are available to anyone who is willing to help themselves. By simply locking your doors, you make it more difficult for a thief to enter, and the chances are greater that they may not bother.

### Avoid Isolation

Park your vehicle in well lit and visible areas. Isolated vehicles are vulnerable, and attractive to thieves. Criminals do not want to be noticed.

### Avoid a Cluttered Vehicle

What is junk to you may be valuable to a thief. Keep your vehicle clean.

# Commercial

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.

## Ways to better secure your business.

### Doors and Locks

Secure all doors, windows and skylights with burglar proof locks that make entry harder. 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, and test it regularly. Train your 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. 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.

