

The following tips help prevent and discourage burglaries:

1. Lock all doors and windows: Invest in good locks. Deadbolt locks with long bolts that terminate in good, solid door frame makes breaking down a door a chore. Also invest in good doors.
2. Keep shrubs trimmed back: If windows are visible, it is easier for neighbors or police to spot a broken window. Consider thorny shrubs as they can be deterrents. Thorny shrubs or hostile vegetation make accessing windows painful if planted underneath them.
3. Keep your garage door or screen enclosure closed at all times: Not only does this prevent items from being stolen but it also takes away another sign that you are home or away.
4. Store vehicles in your garage or carport: Vehicles in your garage or carport make it harder for crooks to determine if you are away and prevents them from burglarizing your vehicle.
5. **Get to know your neighbors:** Knowing your neighbors is a great crime deterrent. Extra sets of eyes watching your property, reporting suspicious activity and helping keep you safe. Be sure to return the favor and keep an eye on their home too.
6. Consider an alarm system: Most insurance companies offer discounts for alarms, and some systems also monitor fire.
7. Watch what you throw in the trash: If you've purchased a new TV, computer, or other expensive item, consider another way to dispose of the box. Will the store dispose of the box for you, community dumpsters or cut the box up and place it in trash bags.
8. Use light timers when you are gone for long period: Light timers give the appearance of being lived in. Leave a radio or TV on a conversational volume level. Have a neighbor pick up your paper and mail and accept packages. Reroute your mail, newspaper or packages while you are away.
9. Consider a safety deposit for jewelry: This can be especially useful for expensive jewelry or jewelry that you do not wear often.
10. Join or form a Crime/ Neighborhood Watch Group: Getting to know a lot of your neighbors and inviting the police to your meetings are powerful tools in your arsenal against crime.
11. Turn on exterior lights after dark: Use the same schedule for lighting when you are away that you do when you are home. Consider timers for exterior lighting or dusk til dawn lighting.
12. Think like a burglar: Ask yourself, "What would a burglar find when he looks at my house that would be inviting?" Remember that you are the most important partner in the fight against crime that an officer can have.

West Melbourne Police Department, 2290 Minton Rd, West Melbourne, FL 32904

Emergencies dial 9-1-1, Non-emergency dial (321)639-7532 or for information dial (321)723-9673

Crimeprevention@westmelbourne.org or wpaz@westmelbourne.org