

**The MOST
important thing
YOU can do is
CALL THE POLICE
to report a CRIME
or any SUSPICIOUS
activity.**

**YOU and your
neighbors know
your
neighborhood the
best. YOU have to
be the eyes of your
neighborhood.**

*This information is brought to
you courtesy of the Bernards
Township Police Department.*

Chief Michael Shimsky

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EMERGENCY

9-1-1

www.bernardspd.org

Protect
Yourself...



*...TIPS FOR PROTECTING
YOURSELF FROM BEING A
VICTIM OF A BURGLARY*

The burglary basics:

- ✓ Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- ✓ Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- ✓ Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day. Consider leaving a television on.
- ✓ Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- ✓ Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, packages, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- ✓ Don't leave garbage /recycling containers out at the end of your driveway
- ✓ Consider installing exterior lighting with motion detectors.

- ✓ Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- ✓ Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- ✓ Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- ✓ Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

If your home is broken into:

- ✓ If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:
- ✓ Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.
- ✓ Use a neighbor's phone or cell phone to call police.
- ✓ Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have arrived.
- ✓ Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- ✓ Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

Other precautions you should take:

- ✓ Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- ✓ Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase, original value, serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home -- this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- ✓ Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- ✓ Consider installing a burglar alarm system or doorbell camera.