

GOING ON VACATION?

Everyone looks forward to taking vacations. Unfortunately, this can be an opportune time for a burglar to strike, especially if there are “telltale” signs your home is unoccupied. Whether you’re gone for a day or a couple weeks, take the following precautions:

- Check all doors and windows to make certain they are securely locked. If any locks need to be replaced or reinforced, make these improvements *before* you leave.
- Use automatic timers on interior lights. A timer can also be used on a portable radio.
- Use photo electric cells (which screw into the light socket) on exterior lights. These devices will automatically turn lights on/off depending on the level of darkness.
- Make sure items such as children’s toys, ladders, lawn furniture etc. are put away.
- A *trusted neighbor or friend* should be informed of your vacation plans, when you’re leaving and your expected return date.
- A *trusted neighbor or friend* can be given a key to your home so that the position of curtains, drapes or blinds can be changed. Also ask that newspapers, mail be picked up or stopped.
- Inform *trusted neighbors* on all four sides when you’ll be gone so that they can help to watch your home. Be selective in announcing your plans.
- If you have an alarm system, make sure it’s activated when you leave. Leave an alternate alarm code with a trusted neighbor or friend and show them how it operates.

Call one of the Shoreline Police Neighborhood Storefronts below for more information on Crime Prevention and the Vacation House Check Program.

Westside Neighborhood Center
624 NW Richmond Beach Rd
206-546-3636

Eastside Neighborhood Center
521 N. 165
206-363-8424

