



**Mill Creek
Police Department
15728 Main Street
Mill Creek, WA 98012
425-745-6175**

Crime Prevention
Police Support Officer
Larissa Pigott
425-921-5765
532@cityofmillcreek.com



The crime triangle consists of victim/target, criminal/desire, and opportunity.

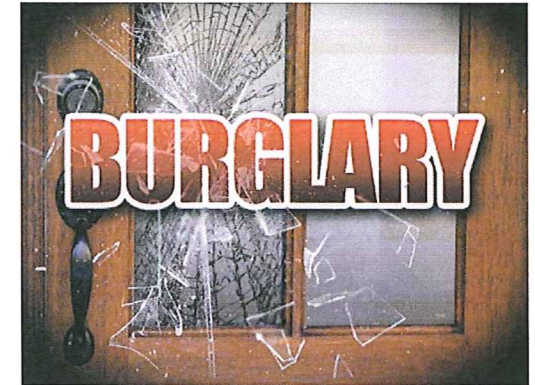
When we take away the Opportunity, there is no crime. And remember the key to your personal safety is AWARENESS.

Don't give criminals the opportunity by being aware of your surroundings.

If you act as a victim, you increase your chances of being a victim.

Think ahead and devise scenarios so that you do not freeze when a situation presents itself.

Most forced entry burglaries occur through rear doors and windows



The most common way of forcing entry through a door is by kicking in the door, twisting off the doorknob, or prying the door open.

In Washington, roughly fifty percent of burglaries happen through unlocked doors and windows.

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.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, 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 get them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. 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.

Don't tempt a thief:

- Lawn mowers, blowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping".

Locks...get the best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.

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 to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- 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 purchased and original value and serial numbers. Keep a copy in a safe place away from home. Take pictures or video.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately. Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.