

It is the Mission of the Columbia Police Departments Crime Prevention Unit to help reduce crime and, more importantly, to reduce the fear of crime in all communities, both business and residential, in the City of Columbia. This will be accomplished through various proactive Crime Prevention strategies, techniques and programs working closely with all citizens throughout the city.

The ultimate goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. By understanding and applying the Crime Prevention Triangle, the chances of being a victim can be reduced. Removing the Opportunity, the Ability and/or the Desire for a criminal to commit a crime can make a difference. Successful crime prevention efforts will promote a safer community by enhancing the perception of safety while reducing the fear of crime.



Columbia Police Department
#1 Justice Square
Columbia, SC 29201
803.545.3500



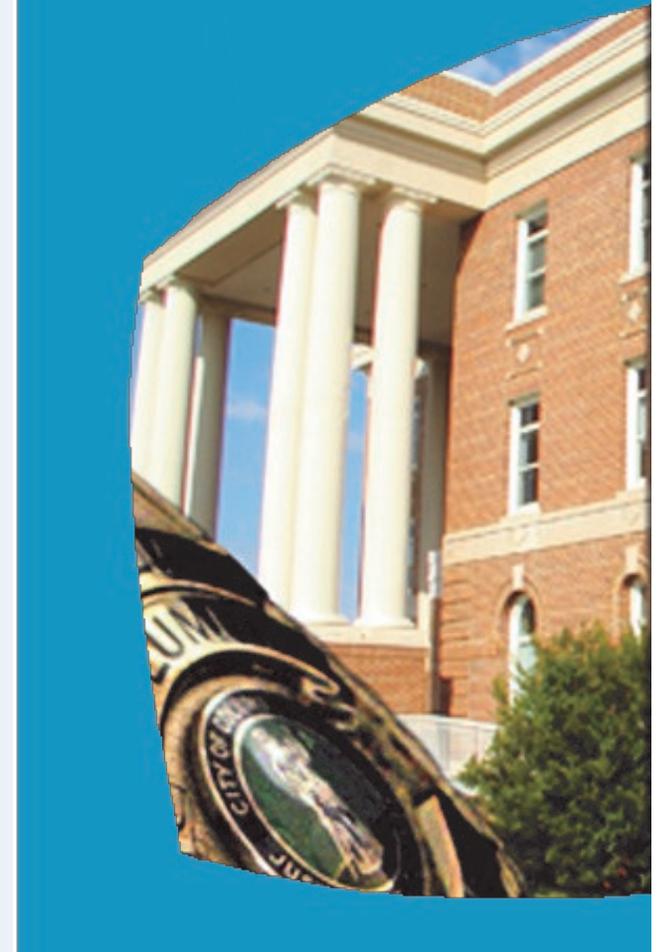
Preventative Burglary Tips

CONTACT CRIME PREVENTION TODAY



1600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 545-3555

www.columbiapd.net/crime_prevention.html



- Good Neighbors
- Alarm Systems
- Stay Alert
- Trust Your Instincts
- Deadbolt Locks
- Use a Timer



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.

Preventative Burglary Tips

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 build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to

to hold your mail or, arrange for a friend or neighbor to take 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.

Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight

Always lock your garden sheds and garages.

Use curtains on garage and basement windows.

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.

An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation.

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- **Locks...Get the Best**
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- **Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.**
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- **Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.**
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- **Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.**
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- **Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.**
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- **Never leave keys under doormats, burglars know where to look.**
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