

VACATION PLANS

(To be given to person watching your home:)

In case of an emergency, contact:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

VACATION ITINERARY

Date: _____

Location: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____

Location: _____

Phone #: _____

RELATIVES:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

HOUSE CHECKLIST

🏠 Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Leave: _____ Return: _____

🏠 LIGHTS: (circle one)

- No Yes Timers
- Outside Light Other

🏠 DELIVERIES: (circle one)

- Canceled Arranged to be picked up
- Deliveries will continue

🏠 MAIL: (circle one)

- Stopped Arranged to be picked up
- Mail will continue

🏠 KEYS LEFT WITH: _____

🏠 IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, NOTIFY:

🏠 OWNER MAY BE NOTIFIED AT:

🏠 PROPERTY IN DRIVEWAY/YARD:
(i.e. cars, boats, campers...)

🏠 IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
(someone mowing? shoveling?)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Watch program focuses on crime at the neighborhood level-your neighborhood. By generating watch groups, we can effectively cover the entire city, making it a safer place for everyone. Some information to keep in mind:

- ◆ minimum requirement-meet at least once a year
- ◆ programs for meeting can be on drug awareness, personal safety, or other topics of interest
- ◆ assist the Police Department by relaying information
- ◆ neighborhood gets to participate in National Night Out
- ◆ free use of McGruff costume

How to participate?

Contact the Crime Prevention Specialist for information on how to start a watch group.

Working together to keep our community safe.



COON RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM
11155 Robinson Drive NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Crime Prevention Specialist
763-767-6501

9-1-1

is the number to call for
police - fire - medical
emergency and non-emergency assistance

Vacation Tips

What you need to know before you go.



Coon Rapids Police Department
11155 Robinson Drive NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
(763) 767-6481

INTRODUCTION

Many people leave their home dark and empty when they go on vacation. Nobody mows the lawn, shovels the driveway, picks up the mail or newspaper, turns on the lights, or pulls the curtains at night. This is just what a thief is looking for! You might as well leave a sign on the door that says, "We're on vacation. Come on in."

We have prepared the following information so that you can insure the safety and security of your home while away on vacation. Much of this information involves making your home look occupied to discourage burglars and thieves. Some of these recommendations require the help of a trusted neighbor.

The Coon Rapids Police Department is here to help, **but alert and concerned neighbors are your best protection against crime.**

LIGHTS



Interior lights should be left on or placed on automatic timers. Use at least two timers in different portions of the home to create the illusion of movement. Motion sensor lights should be installed near patio doors and other entrances. Curtains should be left in their normal position or changed from time to time by the person watching your home.

VEHICLES



Vehicles left in the driveway might make it appear as if someone is home. All valuables should be removed from the vehicles, and they should be locked. You should keep a list of license plate numbers for yourself and your neighbors in case of theft. Boats, campers, vehicles, and sheds are especially vulnerable to theft and vandalism.

SECURITY

Install a good deadbolt lock on each door. Use high security strike plates with 3" screws. Install good locks on all ground level windows. Remove the cranks on all crank out windows if nobody is going to be home. Don't rely on factory installed locks on sliding patio doors. A "Charlie bar" or wood dowel should be placed in the track to prevent the door from opening. Make sure there is not a lot of "play" between the dowel and the door.

GARAGE



Close and lock all garage doors. Many thieves have been able to defeat garage door openers by trying several transmitter settings or by jarring the door until the opener releases from the track. You may want to consider disabling the opener by disconnecting it from the power source while away from home. Many home burglaries occur when the garage service door is left unlocked or forced open. Easy access is then made into the home. All garage service doors and those leading from the garage into the home should be secured completely. Cover all garage windows to prevent anyone from seeing the contents and whether or not your car is there.

APPLIANCES



Be sure to unplug or disconnect all unnecessary appliances and equipment.

YARD



Arrange for someone to mow your lawn or shovel the snow off your driveway and sidewalk. Don't allow garbage to collect outside where it can be seen. Trim all bushes and trees (including evergreens). This prevents crooks from hiding behind them and allows neighbors to see more clearly. Move all ladders, lawn tools, yard furniture or ornaments, and other items inside a secure shed, garage or basement.

RECORDS



Create an inventory list of all valuables in your home. This list should include the make, model, and serial numbers for items such as; video equipment (camcorders, VCR's), televisions, microwave ovens, cameras, stereos, computer equipment, typewriters, guns, etc. These items are most likely to be stolen. Insurance companies are better able to process claims resulting from fire, theft, or other damage if you have a record of this information. Photographs or videotapes of your home and its contents can be very helpful. Store it in a safe place. Fireproof safes can be purchased at area stores. Most banks have safe deposit boxes for rent.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

The Coon Rapids Police Department participates in a program called **Operation Identification**. It is designed to deter thefts and burglaries through the positive identification of property. Contact the Police Department if you wish to take part in this program.

DELIVERIES



Arrange to have all deliveries like U.S. mail, newspaper, private carriers, etc., cancelled. Have them forwarded or picked up by someone you trust. If you are gone for an extended period of time, you may wish to have subscriptions canceled. When calling to have deliveries canceled or forwarded, provide only information that is absolutely necessary. The person you are talking to may not be honest.

KEYHOLDERS



Leave your house keys with someone you trust. Inform them of your itinerary, phone number where you can be reached, and when you'll return. Also leave names and phone numbers of relatives or friends who should be contacted in case of a fire, burglary, or other emergencies. Have the keyholder or another person check your house each day for anything unusual. Have them notify the police by calling **911** if they see or hear anything suspicious.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS



Here are some options for the care of your pet if you choose to leave it at home while you are gone.

- ◆ Board your pet at a kennel.
- ◆ Leave your pet with a trusted friend or relative.
- ◆ Hire a pet care service to care for your pet.
- ◆ Have a trusted friend or relative stay in your home to watch your pet and your property.

If your pet is in the care of someone else, leave the phone numbers of your veterinarian or emergency pet hospital with them. Most veterinarians will not provide service unless the person who brings the pet in has the ability to pay at the time of service. All pet doors in your home should be secured completely to prevent other animals or thieves from entering.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



This program is a cooperative effort between the police and citizens to help prevent crimes from occurring. For more information about the program and how to participate, see the reverse side of this brochure or call our Crime Prevention Specialist at 763-767-6501.

CONCLUSION

It is true that if a thief wants to gain entry into your home, he can probably find a way, but most burglaries and thefts are a crime of opportunity committed by an amateur. This means that the more difficult you make it for someone to enter your home, the more likely it is that he will move on to a home that is less secure. By using the suggestions we've given you, you can reduce your chance of being victimized by theft or burglary. Remember, the Coon Rapids Police Department is here to help. Don't hesitate to call us.

Have a safe and wonderful vacation!

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