



Put the Lock on Burglary

Every 10 seconds – almost 9,000 times a day a private home somewhere in North America is burglarized with an average loss of about \$600.

- The average break-in takes under 5 minutes to complete.
- The majority of break-ins are carried out with little or no force and can be prevented. Police call break-ins “crimes of opportunity” since most of them are the result of a homeowner’s negligence. Unlocked doors and windows, a ladder left out in the yard, inadequate locks on doors or a key left under a doormat all make it easier for a burglar to break-in.
- The best way to prevent a robbery is to eliminate opportunities by making your home more secure, so burglars can’t get in without taking more time or making more noise than they are willing to risk.

Is your home secure from thieves?

In response to concerned citizen’s, Richmond RCMP and Block Watch are pleased to announce the revitalized Home Security Check program. Richmond residents can take advantage of a free home security inspection to help protect their homes from break and enters. This program is suitable to any type of dwelling (house, apartment, townhouse and condominium).

Block Watch program staff and the RCMP Auxiliary Constables have been trained by the RCMP in target hardening techniques. They will walk with you through

your property, checking lighting, windows and doors and other areas in and outside your home. They will provide you with tips and suggestions on how to make your home safer and more secure. At the end of the visit, you will receive a completed home security checklist.

If you would like more information, or to request a Home Security Check, please call the Richmond Block Watch office at (604) 207-4790. You will be asked for your name, birth date, home address, home telephone number and your driver’s license number for the purposes of an RCMP security background check before scheduling an appointment.

Remember, home security starts with you. Make the call today!

Sirens and Strobe Lights

The more attention attracted to a home during a burglary, the better. The addition of a strobe light and external siren identifies the location of the alarm, allowing attention to be focused exactly where it needs to be.

For maximum effectiveness, the siren and strobe light should be placed outside the home in a place visible from the street, and protected from tampering.

What to do if you witness a crime?

- Be a live witness, not a dead hero.
- If the crime is in progress, call 911. If not in progress, call (604) 278-1212.
- Get accurate information. Who, what, when, where and how (and the licence plate number when applicable). Write the information down as soon as you can.

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... continued from page 1

Concerned about being identified as the Complainant?

Should your particular circumstances be such that you want to minimize chances that a problem neighbour or other suspect can identify you as the complainant, there are steps you can take. When telephoning your complaint to the Police, advise the complaint taker that you do not wish responding officers to attend your home rather ask the officers to phone you instead.

Home Renovation Fraud

The best way to find a Contractor is through satisfied customers.

- Ask around. Have any of your friends or neighbours completed a similar project?
- Check the work. Were previous customers happy with the work and the price? Does it meet your standards?
- Obtain at least three written estimates from contractors who have permanent addresses in your area.
- The contractor should provide proof that he/she is in good standing with WCB (Workers' Compensation Board), is bonded, and can provide third party liability insurance.
- Large building supply/hardware stores often do home improvement contract work with the same consumer service they apply to their retail sales.



Avoid potential problems....be clear about who is responsible for what.

The Home Owner:

- Decides what work needs to be done.
- Selects the contractor.
- Makes sure the contract describes the job completely and correctly.
- Is responsible for ensuring that zoning approval and permits are obtained and inspections are done.
- Tells the contractor immediately when the work does not appear to be satisfactory.
- Makes the final decision on whether the job has been done satisfactorily.

The Contractor:

- Supervises and pays workers, suppliers and individual tradespeople, ensuring the work is of good quality.
- May obtain the required permits and arrange for the necessary inspections. (Although the home owner is ultimately responsible.)
- Carries out all the work described in the contract. (Unless he has written authorization for changes.)
- Maintains public liability and property insurance, and Workers' Compensation coverage.

Beware!

- Any renovation agreement that includes the avoidance of taxes, will make the contract illegal.
- You may be liable for work related injuries suffered on your property, if the contractor does not have Workers' Compensation coverage.
- Do not make final payment until the work is completed to your satisfaction.
- Never sign a contract with sections left blank.

Home Owners Checklist

A very high percentage of Home Renovation Fraud cases are similar in the fact that the fraudulent contractor does not have:

- 1) A City business licence.
- 2) A Revenue Canada GST number
- 3) Workers' Compensation coverage
- 4) An Area Contractor's Licence, where applicable.



Avoid Contractors:

- Who knock at the door and tell you that “they just happen to be doing some work in your area” and they can give you a “special price”.
- Who quote a price without seeing the job.
- Who demand a large down payment “to buy materials”. (Most reputable contractors maintain material accounts with their suppliers.)
- Who offer a “free inspection” of your home and then suggest major repairs. (Obtain a second and/or third opinion.)

Charities Verification

With all the charities presently pursuing the public’s dollars, it is at times difficult to know which organizations to donate to, or if they are even legitimate.

Prevention Tips

1. Ask for the organization’s charitable registration number. All registered charities have one.
2. Be wary of telephone campaigns. Find out how much of the money actually goes to the charity.
3. Question organizations who say they “will come right by to pick up your cheque”. Ask them for their address and check if they are legitimate, then mail them the cheque.
4. It may be wise to consider a policy of donating to recognized charities that represent causes in which you or your group believe.

Who to contact: Canada Customs & Revenue Agency
1-800-267-2384

Canada Customs & Revenue Agency has information on charities soliciting funds, how long charities have been in operation, objectives and activities, receipted income, revenues, administrative costs and amounts spent on charitable activities.

Report that crime...

We cannot convince some people to report crime. They say, “I left the car unlocked and am too embarrassed to report it,” “the police won’t/can’t do anything about it,” or “nothing was taken”. We have to convince such people that they are only looking at things from a personal view instead of a community view. Maybe nothing can be done about their personal victimization at the time, but if the police are not informed they cannot take action, increase patrols in the area, or be aware of trends.

We need to help the police by letting them know what is occurring by reporting all crime.

Photocopy your ID

Photocopy all the cards you carry in your purse or wallet. Such as your driver’s license, credit cards, care card, etc. In the event that your purse or wallet is stolen or lost, you have all the information you need to cancel and replace your cards and identification. Put the photocopies in a safety deposit box.

2004 Richmond Crime Stats

- 750 Residential Break and Enters
- 936 Commercial Break and Enters
- 906 Thefts of Auto
- 478 Thefts of Trucks
- 2,420 Thefts from Motor Vehicles



Coast Capital Insurance Services Winners

Congratulations to the winners in our Coast Capital Insurance Services draw are: Barry Ogilvie, Marie Murtagh, Elaine Dinnell and Iveta Williams. And thanks to everyone who entered the draw. A special thanks to our friends at Coast Capital Insurance Services for sponsoring the draw.



Some Tips from Ken Yorke, Block Watch Captain on Fairdell Cres.

- Trim hedges – below 6 feet
- Remove ladders

Make sure your deadbolt throw is at least 1 ½ inches long and that the screws in the door frame are at least 3 inches.

Get to know your neighbours! Thanks, Ken!

Check out <http://www.cpic-cipc.ca/> if you see a vehicle that you think may be stolen. If it comes back as stolen and there is someone in the vehicle, please call 9-1-1. If the vehicle is empty, please call (604) 278-1212.

Safety Tip from Cpl. Kate Anderson, Steveston Community Police Station

Here is the latest trick to steal your car, your keys and your purse . . .

You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. Then you lock your doors, start the engine and shift into reverse. You look into the rearview mirror to back out and you notice a piece of paper stuck to your back window. So you shift into park, unlock your doors and jump out of your car to remove the paper that is obstructing your view.

When you reach the back of your car, that is when the car-jacker appears out of nowhere, jumps into your car and takes off! Your car is running, and guess what... your

Look for the monthly Island Beat crime prevention newspaper column in the Richmond Review. This column is co-written by Cst. Jack Harrison and Cst. Tai Chang of the Richmond RCMP Crime Prevention Unit and Wendy Milford and Sheila Yamamoto of the Richmond Block Watch program.

purse is probably sitting in the car on the passenger seat! The thief now has your car, your keys and all your ID! He just has to look at your Driver's License or registration to find out where you live, and he's got the keys to get in!

Be aware of this scheme and tell your friends and family.

If you see paper on your back window, just drive away.

Be Smart and Be Safe!

The Story of a Car Thief

Hello, my name is Rob Thief and I am 27 years old and I am still stealing cars. I've been stealing cars for years 'though I really don't remember why I started. It was so easy and I needed stuff, like cigarettes and booze. I like to do drugs and break into local stores to get money to do drugs and pay for other stuff. What's so cool is I can get a car in under 60 seconds using just a screwdriver. A tip from a pro? I avoid cars with clubs and immobilizers since they are way harder to steal.

It's just soooooo easy to steal a car and cheaper than buying my own. Besides, I never stay in one place long enough to hold down a regular job. I never have to stay in jail - a quick in and out. Doesn't bother me much. All part of doing my job.



To listen to a recorded message listing the weekly residential break and enters, please call 604 207-4715.

