

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Knock, Knock, Who's There?

Imagine someone ringing your doorbell. What is your next step? Generally, people are curious to know who is at the door, but for some, ignoring the visitor has become a social norm. While ignoring the door is often meant to send a message that the household is busy or not accepting visitors, thieves view this lack of response as a clue that no one is home. Therefore, this article highlights the importance of actively responding to activity around your property.



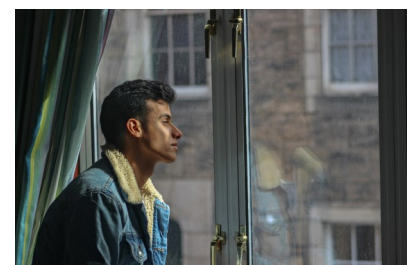
What might you hear or see around your home? – Some everyday sounds you might hear around your home include car alarms, door knocks, and doorbell chimes. While these sounds are usually ordinary, they can point to suspicious activity under certain conditions. In addition, sounds like alarms, breaking glass, loud bangs, or straining wood are indicators that a break-in may be occurring, which should prompt an immediate response. Lastly, some common visuals you might notice around your home are motion-sensor lights turning on or security camera notifications popping up on your phone screen.

Why should I acknowledge and check these sounds? – The sounds mentioned above let you know that someone is on your property or that something unusual is happening. Thieves will often ring a door bell simply to determine if the homeowner is present. If no one answers, it gives them the green light to proceed.

As a result, we recommend always acknowledging a person at the door. Let them know you are home and aware of their presence. You can do this safely by looking through a side window or talking through the closed door. If you are not at home, you may still acknowledge visitors through other means. Some security cameras and smart doorbells allows you to see and speak to visitors remotely. These tools put you at a distinct advantage because they show you are vigilant, while leaving the visitor in the dark about whether you are actually home.

Loud, unusual noises like breaking glass or loud bangs are strong indicators of a problem. For example, a sliding glass door being smashed and a wine glass falling to the ground have very distinct sound profiles and require different levels of urgency. Whenever you hear suspicious sounds, safely check their source. If you see anything suspicious, report it to the police immediately.

Why should I check these visuals? – Many security cameras send live notifications directly to your phone. How often do you actually look at these alerts? Have you received so many that you have become desensitized to them? If so, consider lowering your sensors' sensitivity or adjusting the camera's angle to reduce false alarms. Additionally, always check what triggered your motion-sensor lights. Your lights can tell you that someone or something is near. Safely check by looking through a window or utilizing your security cameras' feeds.



E-Scooter Safety

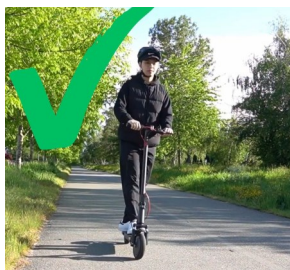
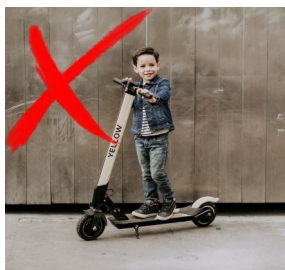
In June, a 12-year-old riding an e-scooter in North Vancouver was taken to the hospital with minor injuries following a collision with a vehicle. The RCMP issued a ticket to the child's guardian for allowing a person under the age of 16 to operate an electric kick scooter. A recent CBC article highlighted that e-scooter related injuries among children are on the rise, according to B.C. Children's Hospital. The hospital's emergency department saw 81 visits related to e-scooter use among children and youth from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. This number has more than doubled compared to the previous year. When surveyed about their accidents, only half of the injured riders reported wearing a helmet at the time of the incident. Furthermore, more than half admitted they were travelling above the maximum legal speed limit. The hospital also stated that 35% of the emergency visits involved fractures, 26% were for bruises and abrasions, and 17% involved concussions. While these statistics only reflect child injuries, and adult data will likely differ, the types of injuries sustained are often the same. Consequently, some cities have banned e-scooters on major roads and school properties. So, what are the rules in Richmond and how can you ride safely? Under the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project, E-scooters are legal in Richmond, but only under specific conditions.

In Richmond, the rider must be at least 16 years old and must wear a helmet at all times. E-scooters are permitted on bike lanes, shared pathways and local streets that have a speed limit of 50km/h or less. Regarding operating speeds, the maximum legal limit is 20 km/h on roads and 15 km/h on shared paths. Conversely, you are not allowed to ride e-scooters on sidewalks or unpaved trails. Lastly, carrying passengers is strictly prohibited. Fines for infractions range from \$95 to \$175.

Excessive speed and a lack of helmet use are the leading contributors to serious injuries. E-scooters and e-bikes travel much faster than regular kick scooters and pedal bikes. The faster you go, the longer it takes to stop, resulting in more severe impact due to the higher velocity. At lower speeds, riders and pedestrians have enough time to react and make safe decisions. Therefore, when riding your e-scooter, always slow down for your own safety, as well as for the safety of pedestrians and drivers. Furthermore, the design of an e-scooter gives it a higher center of gravity compared to a bike. When someone falls from an e-scooter, they tend to fall forward, often leading to facial or head injuries. An e-scooter's small wheels also make it highly vulnerable to bumps, rocks, and road debris. Thus, it is vital to always wear a properly fitted helmet. Lastly, as a rider, you share responsibility for road safety. Obey all traffic signs, follow the rules of the road, and use proper hand or electric signals to communicate your intentions to pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

Based off what you learned above, can you identify why these images are correct or incorrect?

- 1: Riders must be at least 16 years old. 2: Person is riding with a helmet and shared pathway.
3: Person is riding without a helmet. 4: Two people are riding on an e-scooter with no helmet and on sidewalk.



Theft from Storage Lockers

Richmond Block Watch has noticed an increase in break-ins to apartment building storage lockers. Thieves often find their way inside because a resident drove or walked away before the garage gate or front door fully closed. In addition, some thieves simply buzz random units to gain entry. Once inside, they target common areas like mail and storage rooms. Unfortunately, many condos lack crime prevention tools or surveillance, making these rooms an easy target. To help protect your belongings, we want to highlight several tips to secure items within your storage locker.



Do not put items you deem to be “valuable” in the locker, such as important documents or expensive collectibles. If you must store it in the locker, ensure your items are not visible by putting it in a secure, non-transparent box. Depending on the design of your storage locker, thieves may be able to reach through gaps to grab items. If possible, consider hanging a shade cloth or tarp to block the view of contents. In addition, always use a high quality, tamper-proof lock. The lock is your first line of defense and acts as a visual deterrent to opportunistic thieves. Maintain an updated inventory of all stored belongings to assist in identification and recovery in the event of theft. Always ensure both your lock and the main storage room door are securely locked upon departure.

To Start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the community together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Group Lead

- ◇ Each group lead has to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Block Watch Lead, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Lead/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once the above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

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NEWSLETTER

Lock Box Security Assessment

In a commercial setting, business owners benefit from using lockboxes to manage property access and streamline operations for their employees. While they are highly effective for transferring keys to different parties, they can be targets for thieves. During the last quarter, the Business Link office noticed a common trend in commercial break and enters that involved businesses using lockboxes. After gaining entry, the thieves would typically target cash registers or cash boxes. Therefore, we want to highlight the importance of lockbox security.



Invest in a high quality lockbox that has been tested to withstand high impacts, and ensure you follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper installation. Next, choose a discreet location that is not easily visible from the main street, such as near a side door or a back door. Make sure the lockbox is securely mounted to a wall or solid surface to eliminate a thief's ability to pry or pull it off entirely. Some businesses use pre-installed lock boxes outside their storefronts, perhaps left behind by a previous owner or built into the building's original design. Double check that these older units are correctly mounted to the wall and have not been compromised by natural wear and tear. Change the combination code regularly, especially if you have shared it with multiple people or if the paint on the buttons has started to fade, as it makes the code easier to guess.

Furthermore, perform regular maintenance on your lockbox. Ensure it remains in good working condition and cannot be easily defeated. If you notice any structural weaknesses, replace it as soon as possible. Periodically clean its mechanical components to prevent debris from accumulating and jamming the closing components. Lastly, consider adding secondary crime prevention tools such as security cameras and motion-sensor lights in the area. These tools not only keep eyes on your lockbox but also secure your main points of entry.

Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line [604-278-1212](tel:604-278-1212). If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

