

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Inside the Home – Home Security Tips

I arrive home and find my front door forced open, or see a stranger inside my home – should I go in and check it out?

No, if you discover a crime in progress and the suspect(s) is/are present, call 9-1-1. If the suspect(s) has left and the crime has already occurred, do not touch anything and call the Police non-emergency number at 604-278-1212.

Would a burglar alarm prevent a break and enter to my home?

No, alarms alert neighbours or the alarm monitoring company (if applicable), to call the Police which can shorten the time the burglar is in your home and may reduce your losses.

What kinds of evidence can be left by the suspect(s)?

Fingerprints, footwear impressions and/or other physical evidence.

Should I handle any items that were moved or touched by the suspect?

No, if possible, leave them until they can be examined by the Police.

Where are the usual locations that the suspects leave evidence?

Point of entry surfaces including door handles and windows, including the window frame.

Are these types of evidence readily visible?

Not in all cases. Most are latent (hidden) and are only made visible by powder and chemical techniques used by the Police's Forensic Identification Section.

Do all suspects leave fingerprints at crime scenes?

No, some suspects wear gloves or cover their hands with long sleeves.

If the suspect(s) were NOT wearing anything over their hands, does this mean that there will be fingerprints left?

Not necessarily, there are many factors that affect whether fingerprints will be left on a surface or for how long. The ability to leave prints will depend on the suspect (clean or dirty hands, sweating, covering their hands); the surface may be unsuitable (too porous, very dusty or dirty, rough in texture or covered by the elements such as rain or snow).

If an item is left outside by the suspects, can it still be fingerprinted?

Yes, assuming it is a suitable surface. Make sure the investigating officer is aware of the item.

**What are the most common items stolen in B&Es?**

Electronic and stereo equipment, jewelry, money and liquor.

**How do suspect(s) carry out the goods they take?**

They use back packs, sports bags, blankets or pillow cases (yours or theirs).

**When should I look for missing items or serial numbers in my records?**

After the Police have arrived.