



Emergency
9-1-1
310-4141
(where 9-1-1 service
is not available)
(Cell phone : *4141)

**Thieves need only
one opportunity...
DON'T GIVE IT TO
THEM!**



Local policing...
Working together!



It is a shock to return home and discover that thieves have carried away everything! And think of all the difficulties you have ahead of you!

Here are some tips to help protect your home against burglars.



An initiative
of the Insurance Bureau of Canada
and the *Sûreté du Québec*



1 Make your home look lived in while you are away. Before leaving on a trip, give a set of keys to reliable neighbours who will be able to turn on or off the lights and radios, open and close curtains, water your plants, collect your circulars, mow your lawn or clear snow, move your car or park theirs in the driveway.

2 Stop home deliveries: have mail held at the post office and cancel newspapers by calling the business office. Inform the police. They will provide surveillance of your home. On the other hand, don't announce your departure in a public place or in the social column in the local newspaper.

3 Make an inspection tour the day before you leave. Put away garden equipment, bicycles or snow removal equipment; lock the shed. Above all, don't leave a ladder out! Don't place a picnic table, trailer or firewood against a wall. Cut back trees and bushes so that passers-by can see in.

4 Leave the car in the garage while loading your luggage. There's no point letting undesirables know that you are leaving.

5 A timer is an efficient and inexpensive prevention means, especially a random multiple timer system. The timer gives your home a lived-in appearance that will fool thieves on the outlook for a target and keep them away: nothing more than a light or a radio that suddenly comes on.

6 A good lock is well worth the cost. You can buy a double cylinder lock from any good locksmith; once locked, it can't be opened without a key, even from inside. This makes it more difficult to enter your home or get out carrying your possessions.

7 The service entrance needs more than the usual door hook. Install a double cylinder lock here too. But take care: **always** keep the key in the lock to the service entrance or the main entrance while you are at home.

8 The door from the garage to the house must be as strong as the outside doors and have the same security devices.

9 Change the locks when you move into a new home.

10 The garage door must always be kept closed. In case of prolonged absence, lock the slide rail (Diagram 1).

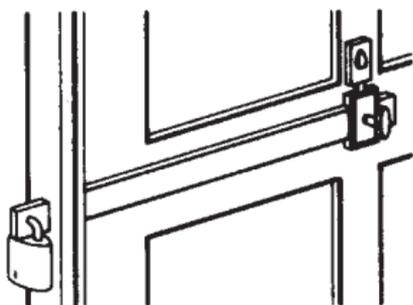


Diagram 1

11 Reinforce your doors. A solid-core door is ideal. Door frames should be solid on both sides at the level of the lock (Diagram 2). If your door is hollow, seriously consider replacing it: doing-it-yourself is complicated and the result is not assured. The best lock is useless if the door can be knocked in with a good kick!

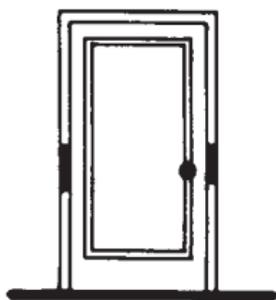


Diagram 2

12 A entrance door that opens outwards has hinges that are accessible from the outside. To make it impossible to pull them out, flatten both ends of the pins or place in the centre a screw that cannot be removed (Diagram 3).

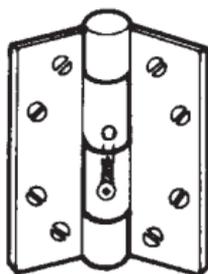


Diagram 3





13 A **peep-hole** (or through-door viewer, Diagram 4) allows you to verify the identity of the person at the door. Give very clear instructions that the door is not to be opened to anyone in your absence. Don't put your faith in the chain bolt: once the door is open, the bolt can be broken easily with a good shove.

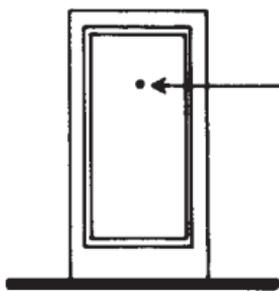


Diagram 4

14 A **glass panel** in the door itself or the side panel found in certain entrances should be replaced by an unbreakable plastic panel or reinforced with a metal screen.

15 The **mail box** must not allow agile fingers to manipulate the lock. Check its positioning. If possible, close the slot in the door and replace it with a real outside mail box. And in particular, don't leave an emergency key there: this is the first place thieves look!

16 **Patio doors** are vulnerable. Drill holes in the frame at the top and at the bottom so you can insert nails (Diagram 5). Get into the habit of putting the two nails and a block of wood in place before going out (Diagram 6).



Diagram 5

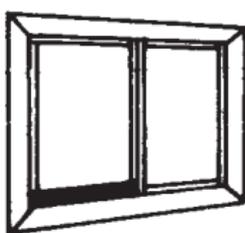


Diagram 6

17 **Patio doors** can often be lifted up and removed without much difficulty. Install a plate or a screw in the upper groove (Diagram 7).

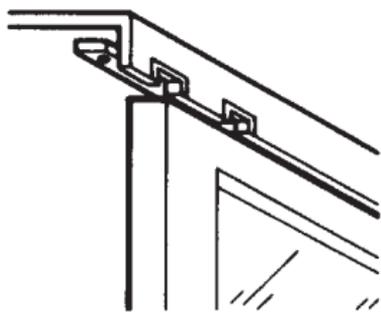


Diagram 7



18 For vertical sliding windows, drill a hole at a downwards angle through the first frame and about halfway through the second (Diagram 8). Immobilize the windows by inserting a large nail in the hole.

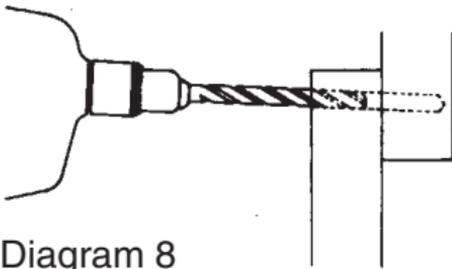


Diagram 8

19 Sliding panel windows can be blocked using nails holding the two frames together. Place a block of wood in the grooves. Do you open the window often? Attach the nail to the frame with a chain (Diagram 9).

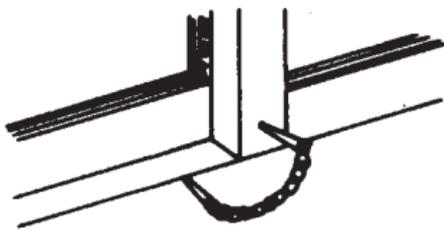


Diagram 9



20 For **basement windows**, if you put in metal gratings, remember that you may have to get out in an emergency or fire for example. Ensure that these gratings are secured from inside with pins that are easy to remove. You can also replace the windows panes with unbreakable plastic panels.

21 **Locking windows** are a good investment. Take advantage of construction or renovation work being done to install them.

22 **Marking possessions** has proven to be well worth the effort. Your police station will provide the kit and instructions free of charge, as well as stickers indicating that your possessions have been marked. Thieves are not interested in marked items, which are refused by receivers of stolen goods.

23 **Your jewellery** is the thieves' favourite target: easy to carry, often hard to identify, and easy to sell. Like just about everyone else, you probably keep yours in your jewellery box or a dresser drawer. Better to leave cheap jewellery there in sufficient quantity to satisfy a searcher, and keep objects of value somewhere less obvious. A little imagination will surely suggest a suitable hiding place.

24 **A home safe** involves a lot of work but is excellent protection for someone living in an isolated house who has many objects of value or who has to be away a lot. Reinforce the walls and ceiling of a cupboard with a fire-resistant material (sheets of non-flammable gypsum). Install a solid door preferably opening inwards (because of the hinges); reinforce the doorframe; place a deadbolt lock with a rotary ring and a door handle that screws in and breaks off when forced.

25 **A high fence** perhaps seems more difficult to climb over but it could protect and conceal someone who manages to do so. Better to have a wire mesh or open fence that allows patrolling police officers to see what is happening at your home.

26 **An alarm** on the fence gate wired to the house will let you know when someone approaches your house.

27 **Don't show your name** on your front door or at the fence gate. You make it easier for someone to call your home to see if anyone is in.



28 **And the skylight?** Have you thought about it? Make sure it is solidly installed and install a locking device similar to those on your doors

29 **Pivot-hung windows** are difficult to protect. Be careful to at least remove the opening lever before you go out.

30 **Ventilation openings** and all openings larger than 600 cm² must be equipped with strong closing devices.

31 **An alarm system** may be an excellent means of prevention. A good system generally doesn't set off the alarm for no reason. One can be bought from a specialized company that will install and guarantee it.

32 **All your alarm systems** must have an auxiliary power source so you are not helpless in a black-out.





33 A **photoelectric sensor** that controls lighting according to the degree of ambient darkness is a good investment.

34 A **barking dog...** even one that doesn't bite... keeps away thieves, who don't want barking to attract attention. A well trained watchdog will ignore attempts to distract it with bait or other enticements. At the very least, a "BEWARE OF THE DOG" sign can also give good results.



If it is too late...

35 **A forced door or window** is a warning: don't go in! The thieves may still be there. Go to a neighbour's and call the police.

36 **If you notice the theft after you have gone in**, don't touch anything! Leave, go to a neighbour's and call the police.

37 **Catastrophe! Everything has disappeared...** Let's hope that you had drawn up a complete inventory and kept it up to date, with photographs and the serial numbers of all your possessions; that you had verified that your insurance fully covered your possessions; and that you had asked for a special rider for the total value of your jewellery (with list and photos), your cameras, your collections, etc.

Don't forget these good, simple and effective precautions before leaving :

- leave the radio on, preferably tuned to a station that broadcasts call-in programs (nothing more strongly gives the impression that someone is home);
- turn off lights in the morning and turn them on in the evening, open curtains in the morning and close them in the evening;
- close all doors and windows carefully, even though you only plan to be away five minutes.



You will find in this brochure a set of tips that will help you protect yourself against burglaries.