



**City of Madison
Police
Department**

Residential Burglary & Theft from Auto Prevention



Burglary/Theft from Auto

Residential burglary and theft from auto trends ebb and flow and can be attributed to different factors.

The following information is offered to help residents of the City of Madison prevent burglaries and thefts from autos and assist the Madison Police Department in apprehending those who commit these crimes.

There are currently six (6) officers assigned to addressing crime prevention strategies/issues in the Madison Police Department. If you would like additional information, contact your neighborhood's police district at:

- West:** (608) 243-0500
- South:** (608) 266-5938
- Central:** (608) 261-9694
- North:** (608) 243-5258
- East:** (608) 266-4887

Please remember, should you observe suspicious persons or behavior, call **911 immediately.**

Types of Burglars

Most residential burglaries occur during the day. It would appear burglars are checking to see if people are home by ringing the doorbell and determining their next course of action based on that outcome. If no one answers, they may make entry into the residence on the side or rear of the home by breaking out a window or forcing the door. If someone does answer, they may ask for "Mary" and when told that no "Mary" lives there, they may say that they must have the wrong house.

Other burglars look for signs indicating that no one may be home; mail or newspapers stacked up, trash cans on the curb days after trash collection, or a dark house.

Some burglars aren't picky and may not care if you are home. We have seen some break-ins that occur in the middle of the night. Some people wake to the burglars who typically flee. Some people never know they have been burglarized until the next morning when they find property missing.

Other burglaries occur as a result of open garage doors. Burglars quickly rifle through a car for loose change, iPods, cell phones, purses, GPS's, CD's or laptops. They may even steal a car in some circumstances.

What Can You Do at Home?

1. Lock your doors. Some of these crimes are opportunistic.
2. Lighting in general may help deter people as they no longer have the ability to move around in the cloak of darkness. Motion lights are a good deterrent if you are looking to be energy conscious.
3. Keep your garage door closed even when you are home.
4. Mark desirable property with driver's license number for later identification. Also, maintain a log of your desirable property with its description and serial number.
5. Increase the perception of occupancy by leaving on lights, radio, or TV.

(Cont...)



What Can You Do at Home? (cont.)

6. If you will be out of town, have a neighbor or friend look in on the house.

A. Make sure someone picks up your mail and/or newspaper or put the delivery on hold.

B. During the snowy season, make arrangements for someone to shovel your sidewalk and driveway. At a minimum, ask someone to drive into your driveway to leave tire tracks, thus giving the appearance someone is home.

C. Use a variety of timers throughout the house to activate lights in different rooms.

D. Have someone put your trash can out on the curb, and return it, on trash day.

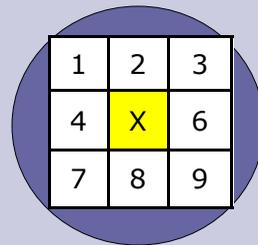
Please remember, should you observe suspicious persons or behavior, call **911**

What Can You Do in Your Neighborhood?

You and those that live in your neighborhood are the best people to know what goes on in your neighborhood! While police can show a presence, we are not familiar with which people, cars, and activities are common for your area. The more you are aware of the surroundings in your neighborhood, the more you can speak to what is out of place and why.

Citizen participation is a critical piece of the solution. Consider starting or revitalizing a Neighborhood Watch Program. Contact the Madison Police Department Crime Prevention Unit for more information.

Get to know your neighbors using the Nine House Model. Picture a tic-tac-toe board and your home is the free space (X).



Numbers 1, 2, 3 are homes behind yours, numbers 4 and 6 are your side yard neighbors, and numbers 7, 8, 9 are your neighbors across the street. By sharing and obtaining information within the Nine House Model, you have expanded the number of eyes and ears around your home by 8!

Consider sharing the following information:

- Names of adult residents (children or others if desired)
- Address
- Home Phone
- Cell Phone
- Work Phone
- Vehicle description
- Emergency contact information

By sharing this information, your neighbors have a better idea of who belongs which will help them decide if there is someone at or around your home that doesn't.

Theft from Auto

Thefts from autos are also a concern so remember:

1. Always lock your vehicle doors and keep the windows closed.
2. Never leave your vehicle running if unattended.
3. Limit the amount of personal information kept in the glove box or console to avoid identity theft.

Theft from Auto (cont.)

4. Park close to light sources, in highly visible areas.
5. Remove, or at a minimum, conceal items in the vehicle interior. Popular items include:
 - CD's
 - Briefcases or Purses
 - Laptops
 - Radar Detectors
 - Portable GPS units
 - Loose change
6. Avoid parking next to large vehicles (vans and trucks or SUV's).
7. Back into a space if possible.
8. In secure parking garages, make sure no one enters while door is open and never prop open a door that leads into a garage.
9. **Be aware of suspicious persons or behavior and call **911** if observed.**