

## Paulding County Sheriff's Office

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### LIGHTS, LOCKS & the LAW!

Remember the three L's of Crime Prevention:

#### LIGHTS, LOCKS, & the LAW!

**Light** up your residence, **Lock** your doors at all times and call the **Law** when you see something suspicious.

The most important thing YOU can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a CRIME or any SUSPICIOUS activity. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes!



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
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## BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
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Emergency, dial 911

Non-emergency, dial 770-445-2117

## The Burglary Basics:

- Make your home look occupied and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail or arrange for a friend or neighbor to get them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.

## Don't tempt a thief:

- Lawn mowers, blowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "Gone shopping".

## Locks...get the best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Key-in dead bolt locks provide minimum security. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

## Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.

## If Your Home Is Broken Into:

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- Do not enter—the perpetrator may still be inside.

- Use a neighbor's phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.

## Other precautions you should take:

- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places — burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date purchased and original value and serial numbers. Keep a copy in a safe place away from home. Take pictures or video.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately. Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.