

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

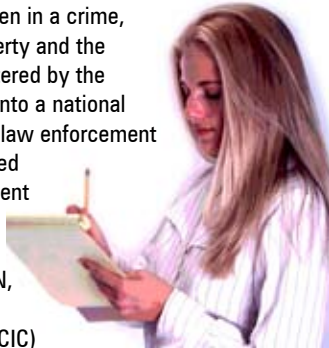
Participating in Operation Identification will help police track down your valuables should your home be burglarized. Simply make a list of all the valuable items in your home and keep it in a secure place so it can be turned over to the police should they need it.

To assist you, the Police Department website has a property inventory sheet that you can print and fill out. The sheet contains sections for listing electronics, lawn equipment and power tools, jewelry, guns and weapons, and miscellaneous valuables.

For each item, list (where applicable) the make, model, color, style, and most importantly, a serial number or owner-applied number. An owner-applied number (OAN) is a number that you select and put on that piece of property to identify it as belonging specifically to you. NEVER use your social security number as an OAN.

Each time property is taken in a crime, a description of the property and the serial number/OAN is entered by the WSPD Records Division into a national database that is used by law enforcement agencies across the United States. If a law enforcement agency recovers a piece of property and searches by the serial number/OAN, the National Crime Information Computer (NCIC) will automatically send an alert that the property is stolen, along with the appropriate information about the reporting agency. Having the serial number/OAN recorded and available for the police greatly increases the chance of recovering your property.

For a property inventory sheet, go to www.WSPD.org and search for Operation ID.



VACATION PLANNING

Have a security plan when you go on vacation. Ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and newspaper. Set your lights and televisions on timers to give the appearance that you are home. Consider installing a burglar alarm or home security system.

BURGLARY PLAN

- Do not enter your house if you return home and find signs that a burglary is taking place or has taken place. Go to a safe place immediately, such as a neighbor's home, and call the police.
- If you enter your home and find evidence of a burglary, call the police immediately. Do not touch anything or move anything. Give the police a chance to gather evidence that may have been left.
- Try to determine what has been taken and prepare a list of stolen items (with serial numbers or owner-applied numbers if possible) to assist police in their investigation.

Produced by the
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CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM
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C. Clark, West Ward, Molly Leight, South Ward, Wanda Merschel,
Northwest Ward, Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward, James Taylor, Jr.,
Southeast Ward City Manager: Lee Garrity



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

from the Winston-Salem Police Department

PROTECT YOUR HOME

Learn what you can do to reduce or eliminate the opportunity for a criminal to invade your home.



HOUSEBREAKING PREVENTION

Three elements must be present for someone to commit a criminal act. They are:

1. **the ability to commit a crime;**
2. **the desire to commit a crime; and**
3. **the opportunity to commit a crime.**

When it comes to preventing housebreakings, there is little you can do about the first two elements – ability and desire. But you can reduce or eliminate the opportunity for a criminal. Follow these guidelines:

LIGHTING

Shadows around your home create hiding places for criminals. Adequate lighting is a proven deterrent for prowlers, burglars and vandals. It's a cost-effective way to protect your home.

Effective lighting should:

- Illuminate as many sides of your house as possible.
- Be mounted high under the eaves or some other inaccessible area to prevent tampering.
- Be turned on during all nighttime hours.



EXTERIOR DOORS

Good exterior doors are the first line of defense against burglars. When installing exterior doors consider the following:

- All outside doors to your home should be solid core doors of metal or wood
- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed deadbolt lock.
- Install a peephole in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- Don't rely on door chains; they break easily and don't keep intruders out.
- Secure all sliding glass doors. Put a steel rod in the door channel to keep it from being removed.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Make sure your house number is visible from the street. Mark it with reflective numerals at least three inches high. Also, paint your house number on the curb. This will aid emergency responders should they need to locate your house.

CHECK YOUR LANDSCAPE

Overgrown landscaping gives criminals places to hide. Keep trees and shrubs well-trimmed, especially around door and windows. This will make it easier for neighbors and the police to see any illegal activity.

When planning your landscaping, consider plants that have sharp points or thorns, such as holly bushes. Also consider landscape lighting. Not only does it add a nice appeal to your property, it also adds light to dark hiding places.

KEY SAFETY

Never hide house keys under the door mat or a rock that is near your door. Be careful with your keys. Put your house and car keys on separate key rings.

