



Community Resources Team Crime Prevention Alert

Garage and Shed Burglary Prevention Tips

One very common form of home burglary is from open garage doors or garage doors that are accessed using a stolen garage door opener. Most homeowners fail to realize that many thieves drive around looking for open garage doors from which they can help themselves to the contents.

Always keep your garage door closed, even if you are only away from the garage for a few minutes. Many people think they don't have to worry about thieves in their neighborhood because it's a safe neighborhood, but that's exactly where thieves go to steal. The following are measures that can be taken to protect your garage and shed:

- Use a good lock on ALL shed and garage doors.
- Lock windows and use blinds to conceal items inside.
- Mark all property, including lawnmowers, generators, bikes, snow blowers, saws, leaf blowers, weed eaters, power tools etc. with your driver's license number and state abbreviation.
- Secure items such as lawnmowers, generators, snow blowers and bicycles to fixed objects using a good chain/cable and pad lock.
- Don't leave the garage remote attached to the visor in your vehicle. Either lock the remote in a secure place such as the glove box or invest in a remote you can attach to your key ring.
- Frost or cover your garage windows – Don't do thieves any favors by enabling them to see when your vehicle is gone, a better idea would be to replace the door with one that lacks windows.
- Keep a written copy of ALL serial numbers of property stored in sheds & garages.



Community Resources Team Crime Prevention Alert

Garage and Shed Burglary Prevention Tips (Continued)

- Homeowners who often forget to shut their garage door should consider purchasing an "open garage door indicator" that alerts them when the garage door has been left open. Also, some garage door manufacturers have an automatic system that recognizes when a garage door has been left open and will close it after a specified period of time.
- Make sure that fences, gates & sheds are secure and closed, even when working in the front yard. It only takes a few seconds for thieves to remove property from a storage area while you are working in the front of the yard.
- The door leading from the garage to the house should be a solid wood/metal door and have a good quality deadbolt lock. This door should be kept locked when not at home or working in the back yard.
- Install motion sensor lights on sheds and garages.
- Keep bushes/trees around garage and sheds pruned to improve natural surveillance.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch in your community. When citizens take positive steps by learning how to report suspicious activities around their homes, they are helping themselves as well as their neighbors.

**For questions, concerns or additional information contact your precincts
Community Outreach Team, or the Baltimore County Police Department's
Community Resources Team, Officer Bryan Dietsch or Detective Carl Lindhorst
@ 410-887-5901**