



Home Security Tips

Residents should always be diligent about home security. Please review these important safety tips and help keep our community safe.

General Home

Here are a few simple steps you can take to prevent becoming a victim.

- Despite warmer temperatures, never leave doors or windows open or unlocked while away from home, including second story-entries.
- When at home, secure doors and windows in rooms not occupied. A front door should not be left open unless a locking security screen is in use.
- Keep front and side garage doors closed when you're not present in and around the garage area.
- Adjust window coverings for optimal privacy while maintaining good visibility of outside areas.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view of windows or doors.
- Never leave keys hidden under door mats or potted plants.
- Front and back porch lights should be on during hours of darkness. Fixtures with photo light sensors are recommended to ensure lights are on when you are home or away.
- Always verify **any** unscheduled visit from a service provider, utility, or maintenance worker(s) prior to allowing them access to your home or property. A reputable worker will wait outside while you verify the reason for their visit with the home office.
- Do not open your door to strangers/solicitors, but let them know someone is home. Respond through the **closed** door simply stating, "not interested." Additional courtesy is unnecessary and not advised.
- Vary routines by changing times of activities and your usual direction of travel.
- Do not store ladders in side or back yards, as they can be used to access second story windows or balconies.
- Trim trees and bushes so your windows and front door are visible from the street.
- Have packages delivered to a location where someone will be there to accept them instead of being left unattended on your porch.
- Record the serial numbers of high-value electronics, such as laptops, cameras, televisions and monitors and keep the list in a safe location.

Please turn over for additional tips

Home Security Tips (continued)

Before Vacationing

Taking steps to prepare your home before a vacation, can diminish the chances of your home being targeted for crime.

- Perform a security check around the perimeter of your home to ensure all doors and windows are closed and locked.
- Stop mail and papers or make arrangements with a trusted neighbor to pick them up. Make sure they know how to reach you in an emergency.
- Ask a neighbor to check your driveway and porch area once a day and to remove any flyers or notices which have been left.
- Leave selected interior lights on timers and set them to reflect your normal schedule. This will provide the appearance that someone is home.
- Request free “Vacation Home Check” services from Mission Viejo Police Services. Our volunteers will check the perimeter of your home every weekday while you are away for up to two weeks.
- Remind **all** family members **not to** “check-in” on social media websites when on vacation. Such posts can be viewed by friends of friends, effectively telegraphing to the community at large that your home is empty, potentially targeting it for crime.

Vehicle

Property left visible in unlocked or locked vehicles can disappear quickly. Always take these simple steps to protect your property.

- Always lock your car and roll up your windows!
- Remove valuables and all items visible when you leave your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Report suspicious people and activities.

Sheriff's Department **Emergency 9-1-1** **Non-Emergency 949-770-6011**

Mission Viejo Police Services Crime Prevention Office



200 Civic Center

Mission Viejo, CA 92691
Telephone: 949-470-8433

Email: crimeprevention@cityofmissionviejo.org



MISSION VIEJO
Make Living Your Mission