



**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING  
SUSPICIOUS  
CONTACT US**



## **COMMON ELEMENTS OF BURGLARIES**

- Occur between 4:00pm and 9:00pm
- Access residence from rear and side yards where they cannot be observed by neighbors
- Enter through broken windows – they do not open doors or windows which set off alarms
- Target master bedroom and closet, den and office – do not keep valuables there
- Take high value jewelry, watches, purses, shoes, furs and cash and avoid credit cards which can be traced
- Burglaries take 2 to 4 minutes



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**NON-EMERGENCY**

**(650) 636-4911**

**RESIDENTIAL  
BURGLARIES**



**KEEP  
IN  
MIND**



**Protecting your home from burglaries is crucial for safety and peace of mind. Simple measures can greatly reduce the risk.**

Make your home appear occupied, **particularly between 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM**. If you're heading out for dinner, switch on interior lights and leave a television visible from the street.

Install motion-sensor activated outdoor floodlights. **Ensure that every corner of your home has them installed.** These lights are cost-effective, so the more you have, the better.

Utilize home surveillance cameras such as Ring, Blink, SimplySafe, or others. Opt for cameras and recorders with features including 4K resolution, night vision, motion sensors, and the ability to send alerts and notifications to your phone. Ideally, **position a camera to monitor the street in front of your home at an angle suitable for capturing license plates.**



No police officer, deputy, or private security patrol knows the cars, homes, workers, and occupants on your street as well as you do. **Whenever you leave your home, drive slowly and observe your surroundings.** Take note if a vehicle looks out of place or if something seems amiss. **Be vigilant and call the Sheriff's Office if you notice anything suspicious.**

Deputies are always nearby, and addressing a suspicious vehicle or person is far easier than dealing with a burglary later. Their quick response serves as a major crime deterrent. When you go for a hike, jog, bike ride, or walk your dog, remain observant of your surroundings.

Double-check that all doors and windows are securely locked (you'd be surprised...). Additionally, ensure that gates and fences are locked to enhance security measures.

Add the Sheriff's non-emergency dispatch number to your cell phone's contact list, and then designate it as a speed dial number for easy access. This ensures that you can quickly reach them when needed.



Ensure that a monitored burglar alarm system is installed and **utilized consistently**. Always activate the interior motion sensors when leaving the premises, and activate the glass break sensors if available.

Avoid storing valuables at home, particularly in your master bedroom, master bathroom, or office. If you own a safe, **consider leaving it empty and locked in the open position (unable to be closed)** to indicate to potential thieves that there are no valuables inside. Burglars often cause extensive damage when attempting to remove a safe.

Say hello to your neighbors. Let them know if you will be away, even for a day or two. Tell them to report suspicious activity to police. Offer to return the favor when they are away.



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**With these precautions, you can enhance your home's security and deter potential burglars.**