

**East Lyme Police offer tips to avoid being burgled** – Published 5/29/09/The Day

**East Lyme** - After what police describe as a recent rash of residential burglaries throughout the town, the resident state trooper and local police have created a checklist for home and business owners to help them protect their assets.

**WHEN YOU'RE AT HOME:**

1. Use deadbolt locks on all doors and keep them locked at all times.
2. Use quality locks on windows and sliding doors. Keep them in working order.
3. Install a deadbolt lock on the door between the house and an attached garage.
4. House numbers should be visible and lighted or reflective so emergency personnel can find it quickly.
5. Keep main entrance visible from the street and well lit at night.
6. Do not hide keys anywhere outside the house.
7. Never let strangers into your home without checking their identification.
8. Know your neighbors and keep their phone numbers handy for emergencies.
9. Trim trees and shrubs around the house and under windows to eliminate hiding places for thieves.
10. Keep the exterior of the home, especially around windows and doors, well lit.
11. Install outside lights equipped with motion detectors.
12. Use timers on lamps to create the impression of an occupied home.
13. Move all tools and ladders into a garage or shed when not in use. Keep the garage or shed locked.
14. Lock your vehicles parked at home.

**WHEN YOU GO ON VACATION:**

1. Complete yard work before leaving. Arrange for someone to mow the lawn and water flowers if you will be gone for an extended period of time.
2. Stop your newspaper delivery and ask the post office or a neighbor to hold your mail.
3. Arrange for a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your house and to call police if anything suspicious occurs.
4. Install light timers on lamps to give the appearance that the home is occupied.
5. Turn down the volume on your phone and answering machine.

**IF YOU WILL BE AWAY FROM YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS:**

1. Please contact the East Lyme Resident Troopers Office at 860-739-7007, or 860-739-5900, and request that patrol checks are made of your home or business during your absence. Be prepared to provide:
  - The dates and times that you will be away.
  - The names and contact information for persons to be notified in the event of emergency
  - The names of people who might visit the property during your absence (Caretakers, house cleaners, persons caring for animals, etc.).
  - Description of vehicles that may be at the property.
2. Contact your neighbors and inform them of your trip and the dates you will be away.
3. Request that they contact police should they see any unexpected people or vehicles on the property.
4. Contact your mail and newspaper carriers and cancel deliveries during your absence. Uncollected mail and packages are flags for potential burglars.

Please report all suspicious neighborhood activity including description of the vehicle or person to the police.