



DEALING WITH RESIDENTIAL BREAK & ENTERS

On average, residents of the cities of Brampton and Mississauga experience seven residential break and enters each and every day. Residential “break-ins” are typically “crimes of opportunity” and while it is common for victims to feel a sense of violation, burglars generally have little, if any, personal knowledge of the people who live there.

Burglars typically “select” their targets – the house and your property – based upon characteristics that they associate with a successful break-in. This might include:

- corner lots and homes that back onto parks and other open spaces (as these typically allow for greater access);
- landscaping, particularly shrubs and/or trees that hide accessible doors and windows; and
- most importantly the absence of a lived-in look – flyers and mail picked up, lights on timers, and property well maintained!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

The first thing to remember is that, as upsetting as a burglary can be, the burglar targeted your home and property and not you personally. As such, you can help to discourage further crimes from occurring. To do this, it is recommended that you perform a self-audit. This is easily done by downloading and completing the Home Security Challenge. This can be found on our web-site at <http://www.peelpolice.ca/en/crimeprevention/factsheets.asp>

The next thing to do is speak to your immediate neighbours and let them know that a break-in has occurred. They can help keep an eye on the neighbourhood and your property, in the event that the burglar remains in the area or thinks about returning to the property (see Repeat Burglary fact sheet). In the event that you have not taken an opportunity to get to know your neighbours, you can use the Know Your Neighbours card to help break the ice. The card is a handy one-stop source of all your neighbours’ basic information. Personal contact is often necessary before a neighbour will take an active interest in watching out for you or your property.

ACTING ON THE AUDIT

It is important that you act on any deficiencies found in the audit. By addressing these issues, you will feel more confident about your security and hopefully send a message to the burglar that precautions have now been taken. It will also help you and your family lessen any negative psychological or emotional impact that the crime may have had.

Additional information can be found on these fact sheets:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Home Security, Door, Frames & Locks
- Home Security, Residential Alarms
- Home Security, Window Security & Patio Doors
- Residential Hi-Rise Security



MARK YOUR PROPERTY

Most burglars and thieves are looking for the biggest pay-off with the least amount of effort and risk. Mark your property programs such as Operation Identification or Operation Trace which utilizes the Trace Identified pen <http://www.traceidentified.com> discourage thieves by providing a means to mark your property along with decals advertising the program.

You can register for Operation Identification free of charge by visiting <http://www.peelpolice.ca/en/crimeprevention/operationidentification.asp> or by calling Peel Regional Police Crime Prevention Services at 905-453-2121, EXT. 4021.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

Visit Peel Regional Crime Mapping at <http://www.peelpolicemaps.ca>. This interactive web-site will allow you to monitor reported criminal activity in your area for the last 30 days.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is a great way for the community to send a collective message that crime will not be tolerated in your neighbourhood. To check out the status of Neighbourhood Watch in the City of Mississauga, contact Mississauga Safe City at <http://safecitymississauga.on.ca>

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to speak to a Crime Prevention Officer, call Crime Prevention Services at 905-453-2121, EXT. 4021. Please note that Crime Prevention Services will not make commercial or product recommendations.

You are also encouraged to enroll in the Peel Regional Police, Crime Prevention Academy. The Crime Prevention Academy is a free program that teaches you everything you need to know to keep you and your property safe. It includes two and half hours of instruction on home security. You can find out more about the Crime Prevention Academy by following this link: <http://www.peelpolice.ca/en/crimeprevention/crimepreventionacademy.asp>

GETTING ON WITH YOUR LIFE

Since most residential break and enters happen during the day time when the homeowner is not home, it is important to realize that there is little chance of you encountering a burglar provided you do not do anything to hide the fact that you are home. It is therefore important that you respond to all door knocks. Always speak through a locked door unless you recognize the person. In the event that someone acts suspiciously – this includes asking for someone who doesn't live there – call Police.



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A Safer Community Together