Vacation Security Checklist

Thieves look for what police term “targets of opportunity”. There are many things you can do to avoid becoming one of their victims, especially when you are going to be away from your home for an extended period of time.

⎫ Double check that second floor and basement windows are locked. These areas are often forgotten. Use a secondary lock which can be obtained from your local hardware store.

⎫ Make sure that exterior areas will not give your absence away. Arrange to have mail and newspaper deliveries either stopped or picked up by a neighbor.

⎫ Leave a car in the driveway. Be sure that it is locked and the valuables removed.

⎫ Arrange to have the lawn cut and bushes trimmed. This will give the appearance that you are at home.

⎫ Make sure all outbuildings are securely locked. This includes any lawnmowers, tractors, tools etc. are put away out of sight.

⎫ Have interior and exterior lights on a timer. One timer can be programmed to turn one light on and off several times throughout the night. Several timers performing the same function can give a very “lived-in” appearance. Be sure to include radio and TV’s adding an extra element to this appearance. If you have a garage, turn on a radio during the day.

⎫ Make a list of serial number, date purchased, and price of expensive items. Keep a list in a safe place, not in your home or stored on your home computer. If there isn’t a serial number on an expensive item, you can always engrave it with your driver’s license number.

⎫ Ask your neighbors to check your home regularly, use your trash cans, and leave a number with them where you can be reached. Let them know if they see something suspicious, have them call 911 right away!

⎫ Ask neighbors to also pick up handbills or circulars left on your door or porch.

⎫ While it is advisable to notify the Sheriff’s Office and/or a neighbor of your planned absence, don’t tell everyone about your plans. Don’t leave notes on the door indicating that you are away. If you have children, remind them to not share your plans with strangers or people they hardly know.

⎫ If, upon returning from your trip, you spot evidence of a break-in, DO NOT ENTER YOUR HOUSE. Call 911 at once! The burglar may still be inside. ⎫ The Sheriff’s Office provides home security surveys free of charge. E-mail COP@co.kitsap.wa.us to schedule yours.