



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

April 1, 2021

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KEEPING YOUR HOME SECURE

Don't welcome a burglar into your home! It might be time for some outside Spring-cleaning.

Most residential burglars devote little if any time to the advance planning of any specific break-in. Their crimes are, for the most part, crime of opportunity. They pick what appears to be an easy mark. If their advance checking and closer examination reveal a greater risk than anticipated, they move onto a safer target. The more you can do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer you are. There are steps that you can take to minimize your loss and improve your chances of recovery if a break-in occurs.

The first step in improving overall security is to take a hard look at the security measures already in use in your home. Look at your house at night as well as in the daytime. Your home is vulnerable until these weaknesses are corrected.

LANDSCAPING AND YARD SECURITY

A few alterations to your landscaping can be enough to ward off potential offenders. Intruders look for property they can get into and out of quickly. Their ideal target is a house surrounded by large hedges and shrubs, which hamper visibility from the street and neighbors houses.

Trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible to neighbors, and from the street. Your landscaping should not provide concealment for criminals. If you have a second floor, prune trees so they don't help a thief climb in second floor windows. Place trellises where they can't be used as ladders to gain entry to the upper floors.

- Prune ground plants (shrubbery and bushes) within four (4) feet of any sidewalks, driveways, doors or gates, at a height of not more than three (3) feet.
- Ground plants located between four (4) and eight (8) feet of any sidewalks, driveways, doors, or gates should be maintained at a height of not more than four (4) feet.
- Ground plants under windows should be maintained at a height that is below the windowsill.
- Trim taller trees so that the lower branches are more than seven (7) feet off the ground.

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Design landscaping to control access to your property. Proper barriers make the person with criminal intent feel uncomfortable as he or she approaches your home. Consider placing medium to large gauge gravel on the ground near windows. The noise caused by intruders walking on it can become a psychological deterrent.

Plant spiny (thorny) plants along fences and under windows. Such plants will discourage even the liveliest intruder. Protecting with spiny plants is as effective as the use of barbed wire, and a lot more attractive 😊

Street Numbers

Street number should be easily visible from the street. When the street address for the house is visible from a distance this saves critical time for emergency responders. Even the internet mapping services can get it wrong.

On your house:

- Use numbers made of reflective materials, or make sure that color of numbers contrasts with background color. Numbers should be at least three (3) inches high. Try to avoid using numbers written in script. These are difficult to read from the street.
- Keep numbers new and clean and replace when necessary.
- Place the numbers under a light and near the front door or garage entrance.

Limited or Direct Access to Yards and Store Rooms

Intruders look for no, or few obstacles blocking quick exits. Fences prevent burglars from carrying away large items. Gates should be locked at all times, even when you are home.

Ladders and tools should be stored in a locked garage or storage shed. Light them up at night. Motion activated lights work great too!

LIGHTING

Pennies a day is what it will cost you to leave your outdoor lights on all night. Burglars look for dark neighborhoods. Keep the lights on and the criminals out!



PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 911 WHEN YOU SEE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON OR ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD – WHEN IT IS OCCURRING.

PLEASE HELP US BY BEING OUR EYES & EARS. THANK YOU!



The top 10 Safest Cities in Washington are;

1. Sammamish
2. Bainbridge Island
3. Camas
4. Lake Forest Park
5. Mercer Island
6. Snoqualmie
7. Maple Valley
8. East Wenatchee
9. Kenmore
10. West Richland



Read more about interesting facts and the crime rates in our state;

<https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-washington/#list>



You can file your non-emergent police report online

The Maple Valley Police contracts police services with the King County Sheriff's Office and offers the option of filing your non-emergent police report online. This option is available for citizens who live in Unincorporated King County or in any of the participating cities the King County Sheriff's Office provides police services for. When you file your qualifying report using our website, once it has been approved you will be able to print a copy of your report absolutely free!

You May File Online If The Crime:

- Is not an emergency
- Is not in-progress
- Occurred in Unincorporated King County or within city limits of participating agencies
- There are no known suspects
- No evidence was left behind
- This did not occur on a freeway
- Did not occur on Metro or Sound Transit
- You are the victim of the crime
- You have a valid email address

Reports may be filed in English, Cambodian, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Online reporting is available at: www.ReportToSheriff.org

If your crime does not meet the requirements listed above, please call (206) 296-3311 so they may help you with your report.

City of Maple Valley Crime Facts

To locate crime activities in your particular neighborhood please visit, [CityProtect](#)

