



Borough of North Haledon

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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New Jersey has been plagued by burglaries and thefts to motor vehicles and homes. Most people believe that a burglary happens only to others, but it can happen to you. Home and motor vehicle burglary and theft are an inevitable fact of life for residents of all communities.

Drive down any street after dark, and ask yourself which homes and cars would most likely be targeted by burglars. Police department statistics show that burglaries and thefts occur most often in unoccupied homes; burglars prefer to steal things without having to deal with a witness.

Leaving your vehicle unlocked creates further trouble. In some instances, thieves gain access into garages via remote garage door openers and steal additional vehicles and burglarize other property.

Usually when you are home, various lights are turned on and off at different times throughout the evening. If you leave your home dark, everyone, including burglars, will know you are not home.

Making your home look occupied when you're away will discourage burglars. Using common sense and simple, inexpensive timers will make your home more secure.

Many homes are equipped with alarm systems. Although an excellent idea, alarm systems will not deter all burglars, but it will prevent them from staying inside the home for an extended period of time. Make sure the alarm companies have updated contact information.

Your home becomes most vulnerable when you are gone for an extended period of time.

These crimes arise from opportunity. Thieves capitalize in environments when they are successful; their success rate is determined by the vigilance of our residents.

The North Haledon Police Department recommends that residents take the following precautions to secure their homes/automobiles:

- Do not post vacations on social media.
- Make sure all lamps, radios and TVs on timers are functional and switched on. Set timers to round-the-clock schedules. Exterior sensor lights are good, however interior lights must be on to give the house an occupied appearance.
- Adjust blinds and draperies to make the house appear occupied.
- Remove ladders from sight and lock them away.
- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to check your home regularly.
- Ask neighbors not to tell strangers or repairmen of your absence.

- Cancel newspapers and all other home deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick them up.
- Arrange to have your mail forwarded or held at the post office.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed and garbage cans pulled in.
- Put jewelry, furs, cameras, coin collections, etc. in a safe deposit box or other safe place.
- List appliances and valuable home contents with serial numbers, purchase dates and prices. Keep the list in a safe location.
- Lock all windows and doors. Don't forget the basement and garage.
- Do not leave the house keys anywhere outside the house. Leave a key with a trusted neighbor or friend in case of emergency.
- Do not leave a note on the door, which may indicate your absence.
- Regularly test your security cameras to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Motion-detector lighting, if available, should always be utilized around the perimeter of the home.
- Vehicles should be parked in a locked garage whenever possible.
- Remove valuables.
- Park vehicles in a well-lit area.
- Any automobiles parked in the driveway should be locked, with the keys or fob always removed and taken into the home.

Stolen vehicles are sometimes used in the commission of other crimes, involved in motor vehicle pursuits and operated in a reckless and dangerous manner by unlicensed or suspended drivers.

Stolen purses, wallets and laptops are used in identify fraud and negatively impact personal financial records.

Nearly every stolen car was unlocked and had the key FOB left in the vehicle

Contact the North Haledon Police Department (973)423-1111 to have your home put on a house check list while you are on vacation.

Residents should immediately alert the North Haledon Police Department at 973-423-1111 to report any suspicious activity that may be observed.



Chief Todd Darby