

Commercial Burglary Prevention



Commercial burglaries are often crimes of opportunity that occur after your business closes. With a few steps, you can take an active role in reducing your risk of becoming a victim.

First, consider how your property looks from the burglar's view. The outward appearance and security of the building may determine if a business will be burglarized. An unlocked door or open window is an opportunity for a burglar to strike. Every opening represents a potential security breach and should be inspected. Update or install locks, lighting and alarms.

Second, establish a closing routine or check list to make sure employees lock doors, windows and set the alarm. Build a rapport with nearby business owners to discuss problems or nuisances and then identify solutions that benefit everyone.

Doors & Locks:

- ◇ Secure doors, windows, skylights and other openings with high quality locks.
- ◇ Locks are not burglar proof. They make entry harder.
- ◇ Double cylinder, dead-bolt locks with one inch throw bolts are preferred for doors.
- ◇ Install cylinder guards and strike plates to slow down forced entry and prevent "jimmying."
- ◇ Use heavy-duty solid construction for rear doors with bars and u-brackets secured to the structure for added strength.

Windows:

- ◇ Ensure all windows are closed and locked at the end of the business day.
- ◇ Remove merchandise from display windows at night.
- ◇ Install burglar-resistant glass, wire mesh or iron bars on windows.
- ◇ Rearrange merchandise so employees have unobstructed views outside the business.
- ◇ Windows should offer light and visibility - NOT easy access.

Alarm Systems:

- ◇ Alarms are an entry detection and notification tool - not a physical barrier.
- ◇ Research alarm companies and request a system which best fits your needs.
- ◇ Hire a professional to install your alarm.
- ◇ Have clearly visible alarm signage.
- ◇ Test your alarm regularly.
- ◇ Train staff to avoid false alarms.

Lighting:

- ◇ Light is one of the best crime deterrents.
- ◇ Use low-watt lights inside and bright lights outside.
- ◇ Illuminate all entry points and exterior sides of your business. Include alley and parking lot.
- ◇ Provide lighting in "hiding" spots to eliminate concealment.

For Emergencies, Call 911

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**Lock your business at night.
Proper lighting deters crime.
Use your alarm system.
Work with neighboring businesses.**

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