

# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend is coming up and we would like to offer a few tips on PROTECTING YOUR HOME WHEN YOU ARE AWAY so that you are not a home burglary victim. The key to protecting your home from burglars is to make it appear as if you've never left. Take the time to make it tough for anyone to get in. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

- Make sure it appears you are home while you are away.
- Use automatic timers on lamps and a radio to realistically simulate occupancy
- Light up the porch and yard with a time controller
- Leave shades and blinds as you usually do
- Have your lawns mowed, sidewalks swept and hedges clipped on schedule.
- Lock all exterior doors securely
- Windows are easily smashed, but still use safety latches on the windows to keep below-average crooks out.

- Form a neighborhood crime watch with the assistance of your local law enforcement agency. Team work can help make or break a neighborhood. Report suspicious activity.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your property when you are away and do the same for them.
- Arrange to have a neighbor pick up your mail, circulars and newspapers when you are on vacation.
- Never advertise your departure. Although it is fun to post family vacation pictures on social media sites, it is better to do so after you return from your trip.
- Move expensive items out of sight of the windows
- Lock up valuables, important papers and firearms
- Replace any exterior hollow doors with solid ones.
- Invest in a good alarm system if possible or at the very least buy an alarm system sign.

HAVE A SAFE AND FUN 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!!

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