

## Ten "Do's and Don'ts" to Prevent Break-Ins While You Are Away

Professional criminals know the signs to look for that indicate that your home is unoccupied. Although gated communities and alarm systems do help deter break ins; homes, vehicles and watercrafts are still vulnerable when it is clear that no one is present at a residence. These tips can help you keep your house safe while you are away.

1. **Do have your mail brought in** - nothing says "we're not home" like a pile of newspapers on your doorstep. Don't tip off potential burglars that no one is home.
2. **Don't announce your departure on social media sites** - there is no way to ensure that only your friends and family are reading your commentary on social networking sites; revealing that your house is unoccupied puts you in a vulnerable state.
3. **Do employ an alarm system** - and advertise it through signage. An effective security system should have a reliable chain of communication which includes a local point of contact and the police department.
4. **Don't close curtains that aren't usually closed** - if you usually keep your living room curtains open, don't close them while you are gone. Professional criminals get to know your routine before breaking in, they know what signs to look for.
5. **Do keep your driveway shoveled in the winter** - when snow accumulates and there is not so much as tire tracks or a path to the door, it is evident that nobody is home.
6. **Do put your lights on timers** - keeping lights on for the duration of your stay is suspicious. Putting lights on timers gives the appearance that someone is turning lights on and off at the appropriate times, giving the facade that someone is home.



Guardian Property Services, Inc.  
PO Box 24054 RPO Town Centre  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 9H2  
250-863-3217  
info@gpskelowna.ca

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7. **Don't store valuables within sight** - jewelry, cash and other valuables should not serve as added incentive from windows. Keeping these items out of plain view makes your home a less attractive target.
8. **Don't leave a spare key** - it may seem like a covert hiding spot to you but seasoned criminals know all of the places to look for your spare key.
9. **Do use outdoor security lighting** - motion sensor lighting illuminates potential points of entry, deterring break-ins.
10. **Do install Closed Circuit Television cameras (or dummy versions)** - if CCTV cameras are not within your budget, mock cameras can be a powerful preventive measure to keep your home safe.

Guardian Property Services, Inc. can help you implement solutions that will help keep your home protected from break-ins. Contact us today to find out more about our security solutions.