

Burglary Prevention Tips

Burglary is a property crime that occurs when the business is closed. Reduce your risk as much as possible. Burglary is a crime of opportunity that can be prevented.

Surveillance and Security are Critical

Lighting. Install bright interior and exterior lighting to make all openings visible from both the outside and the inside of the store.

Locks and Safes. Purchase high quality door locks and use them. Use an Underwriters Laboratory listed money safe, bolted to the floor and visible from the street.

Entry Control. Know who has a key and restrict access to the front door. Rekey the lock if a once-trusted employee is discharged for cause. Rekey locks annually if you have high turnover of employees. Consider an access control system rather than keys.

Intrusion Alert. Install a good quality alarm system to detect unauthorized entry. Check with your Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, law enforcement, and other businesses before you make this investment.

Windows. Consider burglary resistant glass in accessible areas. Unbreakable polycarbonate may work even better, particularly if you have high value items in window displays.

Environment. Keep areas around the store clean to aid visibility. Display your most valuable articles near the center of the store to force a burglar to take the longest possible escape route. Keep merchandise displays organized to allow maximum visibility throughout the store. Check closets and restrooms before you lock up. You don't need an unwanted visitor staying inside your store after closing hours. If you have to have cash on hand keep only small amounts of cash in the store overnight.

If you experience a burglary or other crime:

- 1) Call 911
- 2) Call your insurance agent
- 3) Call the Uptown Chamber – (773) 878-1184

Other Ways to Protect Your Business

- **Join Uptown Chamber's Business Committee on Public Safety – Participate in our business watch Block Captain program: (773) 878-1184**
- Try to hire employees from the neighborhood and make a special effort to give teens an opportunity to work.
- Include crime prevention information in your staff memos and newsletters, customer statements and notices.
- Role play a robbery situation with your employees.
- If you use vehicles, teach your drivers to spot suspicious behavior and how to notify the police. If you're radio dispatched, train your dispatcher to report information effectively.
- Learn about crime victim services in your area and help any employees who are victimized by a serious crime.
- Bring the problems of business security, shop-lifting, vandalism, etc. to the attention of community leaders. Start a "Business Watch" to prevent crime.

Visit www.chicagopolice.org to:

- Report Crimes
- Get crime statistics
- Learn about CAPS
- Get Crime Alerts
- Find Info on Crime Prevention

23rd District

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Call 311

You can call 311 to find out what Police District and beat you live in, as well as the date, time and location of your next beat meeting.

In addition, 311 allows you easy access to non-emergency police services, from filing police reports to talking to police personnel in your district..