

Commercial Burglary Prevention



Commercial burglaries are often crimes of opportunity that occur after your business closes. With a few simple 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.

**For emergencies,
call 9-1-1**

Doors and 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.

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 system regularly.
- Train staff to avoid false alarms.

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.

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.

Remember this . . .

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



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office | Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention
neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org | 425-388-7375 | <http://sheriff.snoco.org>