



That 'Lived-In' Look

Making your home look occupied, even when it's not

Bloomfield Township Police Department

4200 Telegraph Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Dispatch: (248) 433-7755 Emergency ONLY: 9-1-1

Criminals prefer to break into homes that are unoccupied. These are a few tips on how to make your home appear as if someone is there, while you are away.

Outside:

- If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, consider hiring company to maintain your landscaping. This makes it appear as if someone is home and caring for the outside of the home.
- Consider having a trusted neighbor or friend check on the home (both inside and out) during your absence. Have them change the position of curtains throughout the home. A home with all the curtains/shades drawn appears to be vacant. By changing the window coverings positions periodically it gives the appearance that someone is home throughout the day.
- Have a neighbor or friend collect any mail or newspapers during your absence. If you are not going to be home for a considerable amount of time, have mail service and newspaper delivery stopped at the house. Additionally, have someone check the driveway for sale ads and newspapers that are not delivered in the mailbox and have them cleaned up.

Inside:

- Place lamps on semi-random timers throughout the house. Set these timers to go on and off during evening and night hours to create the illusion as if someone is moving from room to room. Additionally, plug in a lamp in the bathroom on a random timer to go on and off throughout the night.
- To create the illusion of a dog being in the home, put dog toys in rooms that can be seen from the front and rear doors of the home.
- Pack away valuables. Do not leave laptops, desktops, other electronic valuables openly visible from windows. Remove valuables from the master bedroom. Criminals know that jewelry, weapons, and cash are typically stored in the master bedroom. Consider storing these items in a secured safe somewhere else in the home.

Additional tips:

- If you have an alarm, use it both when you are home, and especially when you are away.
- Before you leave, call the Bloomfield Township Police Department and ask to be added to the House Check list. Officers will then check your house regularly while you are away.

Bloomfield Township residents can have a FREE security assessment done on their home. Call the Community Relations Officer (248)433-7724 to schedule an appointment.