

Burglars Can Be Choosers!

Category: "Information"

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I have said many times, "The residents of Condos frighten me more than the burglars". This strictly means every person living in a condominium must be 100% security conscious if they want to brag about living in a safe environment.

Burglars are having a field day breaking into Condominiums today because many owners are not security conscious. There needs to be some form of policing amongst the residents of the building to maintain its safety and security.

When you live in a condominium, you need to realize the common areas are private property. This area belongs collectively to all owners. With that in mind Condo owners need to realize when an uninvited person enters your Condominium, they have broken the law.

To help you better understand the mindset of a thief, I have compiled a list of five target areas burglars often choose when executing a Condo break-in. These areas need to maintain tight security at all times if you want to beat the "bad guys" at their own game. Often weak spots are overlooked by Condominium owners until it's too late. So why not check out the following favourite target areas and take a pro-active approach to your Condo's security.

Overhead Parkade Door:

Sneak thieves like to loiter in the wings of overhead garage doors, waiting for opportunities such as unassuming residents more intent on catching the news than a thief in the middle of a break-in. Once a sneak thief follows a resident through the overhead door, he or she finds a stealth area to hang out until the resident has cleared the area

Make sure you honour the, "stop and watch" area. This is done by making sure you pull into the parkade far enough to get a good view of the overhead door from your rear and side mirrors. Once the door has completely descended, you can then proceed to your parking stall. Make sure you have motion lighting installed on the inside of the parkade to assure good visibility when checking out this vulnerable area.

Obliging Residents:

Do you know who you're letting into your apartment building? You have a moral obligation to make sure these sneaky thieves don't enter without first contacting the person they've come to see. One way to help eliminate this risky problem is to post signs at front entry areas. These signs should strictly state "No Key..No Entry" and should warn apartment owners and their guests not to let anybody into the building under any circumstances.

Burglars have an uncanny way of slithering past an unsuspecting owner or visitor. This could possibly cost the building and its owners thousands of dollars in stolen vehicles and merchandise, damaged private property or worse yet, personal safety. Enter phone Panel:

Beware of the "smooth talking burglar" who uses the enter phone as a break-in tool. This

crook rings residents randomly on the enterphone and persuades them to buzz the door open. he or she may wear many hats, posing as a building repair man, postman, courier, pizza delivery person, or even a police officer. If an emergency arises and somebody calls you on the enter phone always meet them at the entry door and ask for identification. Remember many break-ins were assisted by assumptions, so never be too careful at letting strangers into your building.

Mailboxes:

Make sure you pick your mail up daily. There are special locking units available to install on the banks of mailboxes to prevent a thief from prying them open. These locking systems must be designed to fit the mail key as to avoid interruption of mail service.

You may have to phone a locksmith in your area to find out whether they carry these types of locking devices.

Common Area Exterior Windows and Doors:

Burglars often target exterior windows and doors. Often they will pry doors and windows open to gain entry, so make sure all exterior doors have astragals. An astragal is a strip of metal that runs the full length of the door, sealing off the gap between the door and the frame. Astragals should have a slight curve to allow them to wrap into the glass on the stationary door or frame. This will make the door virtually impossible to pry open.

Exterior sliding windows and doors should have a combination of wood dowels in the track as well as auxiliary locks to prevent them from being pried open.