



## CLATSOP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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# Crime Prevention

**Lock your house, outbuildings and vehicles!** Most criminals look for the easy take. Just locking your property will sometimes prevent criminals from targeting you.

**Use lighting.** Criminals love to work in the dark. Sometimes just making your property well lit, can force a criminal to move to a place where they can't be observed.

**Utilize surveillance cameras.** There are relatively inexpensive camera systems for sale. The use of these can deter a criminal from targeting you and if you are the victim of a crime, these videos can assist police in identifying suspect(s) and their vehicle(s).

**Don't use social media to let others know you will be on vacation.** If you plan on going on vacation and live in the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office, contact us and fill out a Security Check Request. We will make every attempt to check your property, in your absence. If you live in one of our cities, contact your local law enforcement agency, and request area checks. If you contact your local law enforcement agency and they are unable to accommodate your request, contact the Sheriff's Office, and we will make every effort to help.

**Leave some indoor and outdoor lighting on** and maybe even a television or radio. This may give the illusion someone is still home.

**Secure your firearms in a safe when you leave** Having quick access to a firearm for safety reasons is fine when you are home but if you leave the home, secure the firearms in a safe. In addition, secure the safe to the floor or wall studs, as burglars will sometimes steal the whole safe, if they can't access the safe.

**Document purchases of all valuable belongings** by creating a list. Use the list to keep a log of all your items (tools, electronics, firearms, jewelry, etc.). In addition, the list should include any and all of the following information:

*Make*

*Model*

*Serial Number*

*Value*

*Any unique identifying features*

The list can be a hard copy, however, create a digital copy that can be stored on a thumb drive. Take photos of the item from multiple angles and any unique features of the item and add them to the digital storage. Store the list and digital information somewhere secure where only you have access (locked safe, safety deposit box). **DO NOT** use social media to document what you have or large/expensive purchases (people may take advantage of that information).

**If and when possible, engrave a unique reference number/letter(s) onto items** to further identify they belong to you. In the event your property is stolen, the list you created and the engraving (if applicable) can further help law enforcement return your items to you should they be recovered.

One of the more frustrating things for a law enforcement officer is to find someone in possession of property that is suspected to be stolen. If the owner doesn't know the serial number when they report the item as stolen, we are unable to enter the stolen property in the statewide system. This is a missed opportunity to get the property back to the owner and hold the criminal accountable. Without a serial number identified in a stolen property report, the property typically gets released to the person who had it in their possession if we are unable to prove a crime occurred.

This list of property, serial numbers, and value of the items can also be helpful for insurance claims, if your belongings are damaged due to a fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, volcano or other natural disaster.