

Things your burglar won't tell you.
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THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator..
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)

8 MORE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets
6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.

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Be Educated, Be Involved, Take a Stance in your Neighborhood

The key to safety in your neighborhood realistically is just being a good neighbor. Do you know the names/faces of those who live next door? Would you be suspicious if a moving truck pulled in next door and started loading up televisions and stereos? Does an adult in a car asking questions of a small child on the sidewalk strike you as odd? Have you ever answered the door to find someone selling meat or offering to do home improvements? These are all situations the police would find suspicious and we would prefer to investigate them while they are

occurring instead of after someone becomes victimized. The police department needs all neighborhoods to have citizens who will take an interest in their neighborhoods and their neighbors. Neighborhood watch groups were started to break down barriers and unite people toward a common goal of safety near your home. Tricom, your citizen's crime prevention coalition, suggests wherever you live contact your local crime prevention officer to initiate a neighborhood watch in your neighborhood. We are not asking anyone to get personally involved in investigating suspicious activity. Rather, call the police when you see suspicious activity occurring. By joining forces we can make all of the communities in Winnebago County safer places to live.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch Programs:

In Menasha In Neenah

call 967-3500 call 886-6000

In Oshkosh In Town of Menasha

call 236-5742 call 720-7109

Elsewhere in Winnebago

County call 236-7309

Thank-you to the businesses that allow us to distribute The Crime Reporter and to TRIAD members and Crime Stoppers member Melanie Hunt for their help in preparing the newsletter.