

COMMON BUSINESS BURGLARY METHODS

Many burglars are very experienced at what they do for a living. Sad but true, you probably have burglars visit your business more often than you know. They are shopping now to steal later. In addition, they are looking at the inside for the best means of getting in after the front door is locked. Some of the ways they gain access to businesses are:



EXTERIOR DOORS – Prying open door locks.

Prevention Tip: Install metal guards around the deadbolt locks to protect against prying type instruments, such as Crowbars, from forcing open the locks.

ADJOINING WALLS - Braking into an adjoining business that may not have an alarm and create a hole in the wall to crawl through to the business next door.

Prevention Tip: Reinforce common walls. Reinforcing materials such as steel reinforced concrete would provide the greatest protection. Make it much more difficult and time consuming to gain entry by simply installing cabinets with reinforced backing or heavy metal shelving units affixed to the wall. Put heavy items on the bottom shelves that will make them difficult to slide away from the wall and harder to tip over.

ROOF ACCESS – Using fire escape ladders, downspouts and other means to gain access to the roof then going into the building through the vents or holes they create.

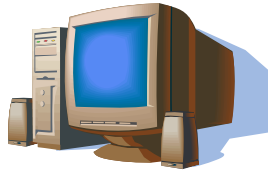
Prevention Tip: Secure ladders and other roof access means when not in use. Downspouts should be a part of the building not attached to it.

REMOVING WINDOWS – Removing glass panes from the window or entire windows from the wall, door or track.

Prevention Tip: Install security laminate on the glass and an adhesive sealant around the inside and outside edges up to the frame of the window casing and trim. Secure sliding windows and doors with locks and a screw inside the track to prevent lifting and removing the window.

SMASH & GRAB BURGLARY

Another type of burglary is known as the “smash & grab” burglary. Burglars are smashing a window to grab valuables and/or gain quick access to office buildings. They are often using the most available tool... the landscaping! Large river rocks, bricks, etc. are often readily available.



TARGET #1: Businesses with office equipment such as computers, printers, closed cash registers etc. located near doors and windows that are visible from outside.

TARGET #2: Medical and Dental offices that may have computer equipment as well as prescription drug samples on the premises.



TARGET #3: Small businesses located in smaller professional centers and strip malls. Many of these types of businesses keep small amounts of cash or other valuables on the premises.



TARGET #4: Retail businesses that are not open 24/7 and usually have small amounts of cash kept in cash registers located near the entrance or exit.

Prevention Tips: Revise landscaping to remove the “tools”, anything that can be used as a projectile through a window. Install security laminate film of at least 14 ml thickness to reinforce all exterior door and window glass in the business. With a tensile strength of approximately 28,000 psi and breakage at 350 psi, these products can protect against entry by glass breakage.

A FEW MORE TIPS:

- Keep a record of all keys and who has each one. Make sure keys have “Do Not Duplicate” stamped on them. Keep extra keys locked up.
- Paint the business address in large, reflective numbers on the roof of the building so police helicopters can find and verify the location quickly.
- Make sure the address is clearly visible on the front of the building from the street and back of the building if there is an alley or back parking lot.
- Skylights, vents, air ducts and crawl spaces should be secured and included in the alarm system.
- Keep a current inventory list of all office equipment with make, model and serial number of each item. Engrave an identification number on items that do not have a serial number. (Note: **DO NOT USE** a social security number or birth date!) Keep list in a safe and secure location. Keep an additional copy of the list off site.
- Anchor safes securely to the floor
- If a business appears to have been burglarized, **DO NOT** enter the building or allow anyone to touch anything. A burglar could still be on scene. Stay a safe distance away, preferably in a locked vehicle where the door can still be seen and call police. **DO NOT** disturb any evidence!

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