



For Immediate Release

TRAVELLING AROUND B.C. STARTS UP AGAIN TOMORROW! HAVE YOU DONE ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOUR HOME WHILE AWAY?

Remember the “9 at 9” approach to home security, and call police or Crime Stoppers if suspicious characters are casing the neighbourhood for open doors and windows

Vancouver, B.C. (June 14, 2021) – The public health officer is scheduled to lift the COVID-19 restrictions on province-wide travel tomorrow – which leaves us free to travel anywhere in B.C. just in time for summer.

But whether you’re going away this summer, or just staying home to do the garden this year, you have to be on your guard when it comes to protecting your home and possessions.

“Even spending a bright sunny day in your backyard doesn’t guarantee your safety. Is your front door unlocked, or wide open to get some air? What about the garage, the things in your yard or the online order just left at the front of the house? No one can watch every side of the house all the time,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers.

“See something, say something” – it’s important

With warmer weather, criminals take advantage. They know we tend to leave windows, patio doors and garages open. Police need information on where and when these crimes occur, and a tipster’s information may mean the difference between “justice for the victim” and “just another unsolved crime”.

“The steps to prevent theft at your house are mainly common sense, and people who don’t take these simple precautions can wind up being victims,” Annis says. “Crooks don’t go on vacation. If you see something out of the ordinary in your neighbourhood call police right away or send an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers. Your tip may lead to an arrest, and possibly a reward of up to \$5000.”

BE SAFE! - USE METRO VANCOUVER CRIME STOPPERS’ “9 AT 9” APPROACH TO HOME SECURITY

Nine common sense things to check every night at 9 P.M.:

1. Remove everything from inside your car – from valuables and garage door openers, to empty bottles and change.

2. Roll up the windows tight, and lock all the doors.
3. Lock up bikes, ladders and even garden equipment
4. Make sure all garage doors are closed and locked, including the one inside that leads into your home.
5. Close and lock all doors and windows on your home.
6. Set the alarm and check your video security equipment – can you see your front door activity on your phone app?
7. Leave the porch light on overnight, so your front door isn't hidden in darkness.
8. Make sure boxes from online deliveries are quickly picked up from your front step.
9. Don't let newspapers and flyers pile up – that really looks like no one's home.

(See backgrounder attached for more summer safety tips for when you go away on vacation)

Reporting to Crime Stoppers

Tips on home break-ins and theft can be provided to Crime Stoppers by phoning 1-800-222-TIPS, You can also submit your anonymous tip online at solvecrime.ca or through Crime Stoppers' tips reporting app available from the App Store and Play Store by searching "P3". When reporting your tip on the app, "Break and Enter" is one of the many offenses found in the list of reportable crimes.

All tips from the public are passed on to authorities to investigate. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is not the police and doesn't record phone calls, log IP addresses and won't use your name.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards.

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BACKGROUNDER

Tips to prevent “summertime crime”

Be prepared to report any crime by downloading the Crime Stoppers app and keeping it on your phone

- The “P3” app allows you to use your smartphone to report any crime anonymously. No need to remember numbers to call. The app also allows you to upload pictures, phone video, documents and more with your tip.

Leave your house with a “lived-in” look

- If ordering merchandise online and having it delivered, make sure the package doesn’t sit on the doorstep.
- If going away, cancel newspaper and bottled water deliveries – and ask a trusted neighbour to collect your mail, and maybe have them park their car in your driveway.

Close it up – lock it up

- Vacation or staycation, it doesn’t matter - close and lock all windows and doors and set security alarms. This includes garage doors. When leaving your home, use timers on lights and leave radios on to create the impression that someone is still home.
- Don't leave a spare key outside under a mat or flower plant pot – like they do in the movies. Better to leave the spare key with a trusted neighbour or friend.

And if you leave town this summer...

- Once you’ve left, don't post public messages on social media that will tip off any shady characters that you're far, far away.
- Don't reveal your holiday plans to strangers, not even the cabbie or bus driver taking you to the airport.
- Anyone you do tell about your vacation plans, make it sound like you have a house sitter (even if you don’t).
- Don’t put your full home address on your luggage. A postal code is good enough.
- Lock up bikes, yard tools and ladders in your shed, your house or in the garage.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed near windows and entries - don’t give skulking burglars a place to hide.