



City of Wilmington Police Department

Joseph P. Mitchell, Chief of Police

Burglary Prevention Tips for Commercial Buildings

- **Make Break-Ins Difficult**

Discourage opportunistic burglars with bars on windows, skylights and doors. Use a double-cylinder deadlock. This type of lock requires a key to open it from both sides, making it challenging for burglars to break in and escape.

- **Make Safes Hidden and Secure**

Burglars know valuable items are kept inside safes. If your business has a safe, then it should be kept in a location that is not visible to burglars. Reducing the level of visibility will deter them from attempting to locate the safe. Additionally, secure the safe to the floor and leave minimal amounts of cash in the store overnight.

- **Install Security Devices**

Security cameras and alarm systems can be very effective burglar deterrents. Cameras provide a record of suspicious or criminal activity and help identify the criminals. Alarm systems notify the authorities and reduce theft after a break-in by driving criminals away faster. Especially with a reliable alarm response. Criminals will often test the response by causing an alarm activation without entering the premises and watching and timing a response.

- **Display Security Signs**

Accompanying security devices with visible signage to inform individuals that cameras and alarm systems are present, will often work as a deterrent. Additionally, many businesses are being encouraged to close down until further notice due to COVID-19. If this applies to you, it is recommended you place a sign indicating "No Cash on Premises" to discourage any thoughts of breaking in.

- **Keep Premises Clean and Tidy**

A well-cared for property lets a burglar know that a close eye is kept on the premises. Signage should be up to date. All surfaces should be clean, including surrounding areas outside the business.

- **Increase Visibility**

The building should be well-lit inside and outside, especially at access points and areas within the store that contain high-value items. Cash registers should be visible from the outside with drawers left open and empty during after-hours. This allows police or security personnel to monitor suspicious activity on their patrol.

- **Evaluate Employees Carefully**

If you both own your commercial building and work in it, then you should take serious measures to ensure you're hiring the right people. The biggest security threats often come from within an organization so it's crucial that you get background checks for new employees during the onboarding process.

Be as sure as you can that you're hiring trustworthy people. However, you should also be careful about what business information you share with employees even if they don't have a criminal background.

Doing your due diligence to hire the right people and being aware of potential threats from within will be a big help in keeping your building secure.

- **Be Careful with Keys**

If you secure your building, individual offices, safes and vehicles with standard keys, make sure you know who has been entrusted with which keys. Keep an accurate record of issued keys and lock away spares for safe keeping. To prevent unauthorized copies, stamp all keys with the words "do not duplicate."