

House Security

Students who reside off campus are at risk of becoming victims of a house break-in. This information has been prepared to give you some tips on how to protect yourself and your property while living off campus.

The first step to protecting your home is deterrence --- protecting your home by discouraging intruders from making your house their next target. Burglars don't want to risk being caught, so they are less likely to victimize a house that looks occupied or protected.

What makes a student house a target?

- Well advertised and regular vacation times, such as December break and Spring break.
- Student houses are easily identified.
 - flags as curtains
 - couches on front porches
 - beer cases piled high
- Have several occupants, each with their own computer, and electronic equipment.
- Regularly leave their houses unlocked so people can stop by.
- Many people moving in and out, difficult for neighbours to keep track of who belongs

What can you do to protect yourself while on vacation?

- Angle your blinds to show the lights but not your belongings.
- Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house
- Back up the data on your computer
- Cancel newspaper delivery
- Have someone check your house daily and pickup mail and flyers
- Have someone shovel your walkways and make the house looked lived in
- Leave a radio or television on to give the appearance of someone home
- Secure all doors and windows
- Take all valuables home, if possible
- Use timed lights inside and outside your house
- Use Operation Identification

What is Operation Identification?

Operation Identification is a program designed to discourage theft of valuables. Proper identification of your property:

- Discourages theft
 - marked property is difficult to dispose of and can easily be traced
- Helps police identify and return property to the rightful owners
 - this works whether your property is lost or stolen

How do I mark things for Operation Identification?

Use an electronic engraver to mark any valuable property with a number that is traceable to you, such as a driver's license number.

You should mark the item in two spots; one visible and one hidden.

Record the make, model and serial number of your property and keep in a safe place. Preferably outside the house

What items should I mark?

- Computers
- Cameras
- Compact disc players
- Stereos
- Microwaves
- Televisions
- VCR/DVD players
- Cell phones
- Palm pilots and PDA's
- Scanners
- Lap tops
- X boxes and Play Stations

What do I do when I find my house broken into?

- Don't enter the house, unless you are sure the burglar has left
- Call the police at 911
- Don't touch anything until the police say it is okay
- Contact the other occupants of the house to see if they are missing anything

[Check out our power point presentation](#)