I. The three most common ways in which a break and enter happens are:

Most break and enters are the result of easy opportunities:
- through a basement window
- forcing open a door or window, and
- simply entering through unlocked doors and windows using no force.

**Make your home a “hard target” to deter thieves:**
- Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat, in a flowerpot, or behind a loose brick.
- Make sure that both your front and back doors are made of solid wood or metal.
- Trim trees and shrubs so doors and windows are visible from the street.
- Keep tools and ladders stored in a locked shed or in the garage, to prevent use by thieves.

**Doors and windows** provide thieves the most accessible entry points into a home:
- Get into the habit of keeping your doors and windows locked, even when you are at home.
- Equip all exterior doors with wide-angle, 180 degree, door-viewers (peepholes). These let you see who is at your door before you open it.
- Install dead-bolt locks with a minimum of a 1-inch throw on all exterior doors. Don’t rely on night-chains.
- Reinforce windows and sliding glass doors by installing anti-lift devices, security film, pins, or auxiliary locks.

**Lighting – Thieves don’t like to be seen:**
- Leave your outside lights on at night.
- Install motion sensors or timers on exterior lights.
- All entranceways and window area should be well lit.
- Mount lights out of reach so they cannot be tampered with. Place security cages over exterior light to ensure they cannot be turned off or broken.
Keeping yourself safe at home:
- Before you open the door to a stranger, verify who is there by using a peephole or verbally confirming the identity of the individual.
- Be suspicious of an unexpected salesperson or repair company – they could be a potential burglar checking your possessions and security measures.
- Always ask for identification, and if needed call the company to confirm the identity of the individual.
- Trust your instincts. If you don’t feel comfortable opening the door for a particular person – don’t.
- If in an apartment building, do not let unknown individuals into your building.

Who’s there?

Be prepared, regardless of how secure your home or apartment is:
- Keep seldom-used valuables and documents in a safety deposit box.
- Don’t store valuables all in one place, particularly in the bedroom, as this is the first place thieves will look.
- Record the serial numbers of all appliances and electronics. Borrow an engraver from your local crime prevention office to mark these items with your driver’s licence number and province.
- Photograph your possessions and keep these photos in a safe place. Photos may be helpful for use in the recovery of these items should they be stolen or lost.

Crime Prevention is a Community Effort
By working together, neighbours can increase the safety and security of their homes and neighbourhoods.
- Get to know your neighbours, their habits and schedules. Good neighbours will often look out for one another.
- Become involved in Block Watch, Crime Free Multi-Housing or other community crime prevention programs.
- Apartment and condominium residents are encouraged to become actively involved with their resident or strata councils. Be proactive in your multi-housing community.
- Report any suspicious activity or person in your neighbourhood or housing complex to the police immediately.

For More Information on Home Security and Safety, please contact:
- Your local crime prevention or community policing unit – see your local telephone directory for phone numbers for your local police department.
- Block Watch Society of British Columbia – 1-877-607-3358 or www.blockwatch.com
- BC Crime Prevention Association – 604-529-1552 or www.bccpa.org
- Crime Free Multi-Housing: 604-529-1552 or www.bccpa.org

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