

Seattle Police Email Community Newsletter

June 26, 2015



Dear Community Friends

Summertime Safety: Windows

It's hot. It's going to get hotter. We are going to open our windows to get some air circulating. Then, some of us are going to leave our homes and leave the windows open to keep that air circulating so we don't return home to a hot, stuffy house. We may return home to a burglar that had no trouble getting in because we left the windows open for them.

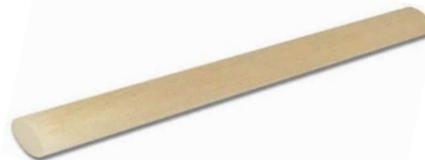
I've written in previous newsletters that we often see an increase in residential burglary in the warm weather months, often because we leave windows open for ventilation and then leave the home. As of this writing, since the end of April 2015 there have been 17 reported burglaries in the City of Seattle in which the burglar entered through an open or unlocked window. Our best advice is that when you leave the home, close and lock all doors and windows. However, if you must leave windows open for ventilation, there are ways to limit how far those windows can be opened so that the open window is less likely to be an entry point for a burglar.

Sliding Glass Windows

If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use something that won't allow the window to open no more than 4". These devices would include track locks or a simple dowel cut to size.



Track Locks



Dowel

Double Hung Windows

These windows have a bottom half that can be raised; some also have a top half that can be lowered. A latch is situated in the center where both halves overlap. Burglars often gain entry by prying open the two halves or by breaking the glass to reach in and undo the latch.

Solutions:

- Replace the latch with a keyed latch.
- For wood framed windows, consider using "sash pins." With the window closed, drill a hole in each corner of the inside sash on a slightly downward slant and continue into the second sash about half way. Do not go all the way through the second sash. Insert a sash pin (two types are pictured here). A second set of holes can be drilled 4" above the first ones in the inside sash to allow the window to be pinned open for ventilation.



Casement Windows

These windows swing open and are hinged at the top, side or bottom. As with double hung windows, forced entry is usually gained by breaking the glass and reaching through to undo the latch or by prying the latch.

Solutions:

- Replace the latch with a keyed locking handle
- Consider casement window locks.
- Consider hardware that limits how far the window can be opened.



Locking Handle

Casement Window Locks

Casement Window Opening Control

We hope these options are useful to you.

Question of the Month

I'm confused about how to report graffiti. I thought I was supposed to report it to Police, but then I'm told I'm supposed to report it to Seattle Public Utilities. Which is it? Do you all really care about graffiti?

First off, yes, we care about graffiti. Graffiti is vandalism and property damage. It is a crime and we do want you to report it. If you see someone in the process of committing graffiti vandalism, please call 911 for a crime in progress.

If you discover graffiti on your private property after it has occurred, you can:

- call our non-emergency line to report it, (206) 625-5011. When calling the non-emergency number, you will be given two sets of voice prompts. At the first prompt, press 2, at the second prompt, press 8 to be connected with a call taker. As this is the non-emergency line, it may take a while to be connected to a call taker, so please be patient.
- report it on-line via our website (<http://www.seattle.gov/police/report/default.htm>). The website allows you to upload a photo of the graffiti.

If you see graffiti on *public/government owned* property (street signs, retaining walls, poles, traffic control boxes, parking meters, bridges, mailboxes, etc.), do report it to police via the above methods, but also, report it to Seattle Public Utilities. You can use their **Graffiti Hotline**, (206) 684-7587, or report it on-line at <http://www.seattle.gov/util/environmentconservation/ourcity/graffitiremoval/reportgraffiti/>. There is also a "Find It, Fix It" smart phone app you can use to report graffiti. Here is the link for more information: <http://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app>. Seattle Public Utilities also has helpful hints regarding graffiti, including graffiti prevention & removal, graffiti removal help, and opportunities for people to volunteer to remove graffiti. When graffiti appears on government owned property (like those listed above), it is the responsibility of that governmental entity to remove the graffiti, just as you, as the private property owner, are responsible for removing graffiti from your property.

Night Out 2015 is Tuesday, August 4, 2015

If you have not already done so, Please register your Night Out Against Crime event via our website: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout/default.htm>

Thank you for all you do for your neighborhoods. Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July!

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<http://www.seattle.gov/police/>

<http://www.SPDBlotter.Seattle.gov>

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/tweets/>

