



## EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA/PRESS RELEASE



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**REFERENCE:** Public Service Announcement – Tips to Discourage Intruders

The Evanston Police Department would like to remind home owners that the summer time brings an increase in burglaries and associated crimes of opportunity. Unfortunately, many people adjust to hot weather conditions by leaving their windows open and unsecured. While understandable, this does promote and allow for unauthorized entry, increasing burglaries, home invasions and other crimes. The Evanston Police Department suggests that homeowners take advantage of the following security suggestions.

### Pining Windows

As it pertains to double hung windows security can be increased by drilling a single hole in the bottom side window edge and drilling additional holes in the top side window edge at various spaced heights. The windows are then realigned so the holes line up. A nail, screw or other metal object is then placed into the hole and the window is secured.

### Lighting

Lighting one's property is a huge deterrent. It is suggested that homeowners install lighting on all sides of their homes, this includes the garage side that faces the alley. The lighting should be at a height that projects the widest possible illumination pattern.

### Securing Doors

Pry guards are an inexpensive way to secure most doors. Many hardware and security stores carry these guards which are easy to install. Also consider securing the interior door frame. This can be accomplished by countersinking screws into the lock side door frame, which then extend into the doors interior wood side headers. Deadbolt locks with interior twist knobs are also suggested.

### While on Vacation

When the house is left unattended for extended periods of time, the following security tips are suggested. Keep your property well maintained: shovel snow, rake leaves, cut grass and have lights on timers. Stop mail, newspaper deliveries and divert special package deliveries. Have a family member check on the property.

### Neighbors working together

The Evanston Police Department has a long history of promoting and establishing Neighborhood Watches throughout Evanston. These formalized groups of concerned neighbors have consistently been successful in improving the security within their neighborhoods. Increased awareness through training, combined with residents enacting creative solutions to address specific area problems, has directly lead to the stability of many neighborhoods.

### Security Surveys

The Evanston Police Department offers free security surveys for Evanston residents and businesses. If interested in obtaining a survey please contact the crime prevention bureau at 847-866-5019.