

Keep your business secure around the clock.



Make it clear that your business is no place for potential burglars.

You have worked hard to build up your business. With so many burglaries happening to businesses in the United States every day, why take the risk of someone tearing it down? Unlike robbery, which involves use of force or fear to obtain the person's property, there usually is no victim present during a burglary. However, the economic loss from a burglary can be substantial – requiring business owners to be vigilant.

Some practical advice to help prevent burglaries.

Here are some measures you can take to make it clear that your business is no place for potential burglars:

- **Consult your local police department** for crime prevention information. Law enforcement authorities would rather work with you to prevent crime than to spend time apprehending criminals.
- **Equip all outside entrances** and inside security doors with deadbolt locks for use after business hours. If you use padlocks, they should be made of steel.
- **Remove serial numbers from locks** to prevent unauthorized keys from being made, and keep a key log listing the names of individuals to whom you have issued keys.
- **Ensure all outside doors are metal-lined** and that they are secured with metal security crossbars after business hours. Also, with exposed hinges, make sure pins are securely in place to prevent easy removal.
- **Safeguard windows** with secure locks and burglar-resistant glass, and consider installing metal grates on all your business's windows (except your display window).
- **Remove expensive items** from your display window at night and make sure you can see easily into your business after closing.
- **Increase lighting** around the building and in parking areas.
- **Install a burglar alarm** with door/window contact and motion detectors that reports to a central station. Also, post a warning notice to let any would-be burglars know you have an alarm system.
- **Secure** all roof openings, air ducts, skylights, air conditioning units and hatchways, as well as doorway, transom, sidewalk and basement openings.

Burglary Protection

- **Install closed-circuit TV cameras** to monitor all entrances.
- **Do not provide concealment** or a climbing platform for burglars. Clear and maintain all debris, weeds and shrubbery away from windows and doors. Lock up ladders and tools that can make a burglar's job easier.
- **Keep your cash register in plain view** from the outside of your business, so it can be monitored by police at all times. Leave it open and empty after closing.
- **Use a fireproof and securely anchored safe.** Leave it open when empty or use it to lock up valuables when you close. Always change the combination when an employee with access to the safe leaves your business.

Burglary by the numbers.

In the U.S., nearly 2 million burglaries occur annually – with burglaries targeting businesses comprising nearly 25% of that total.¹ Here are some additional facts about burglaries:

- **Burglary is not a crime that depends on darkness for cover.** Nearly half of all burglaries involving businesses occur during daylight hours.¹
- **Businesses can provide burglars with a substantial “take.”** The economic impact/average dollar loss per non-residential burglary offense is \$2,179.¹
- **Forcible entry is the most common method of entering a building to commit burglary.** 59.2% of all burglaries involve forcible entry, while 34.3% involve entry with no force, such as through an open door or window. (6.4% of burglaries were reported as attempted forcible entries, where the burglar was frightened off before committing the crime.)¹

¹ FBI report: *Crime in the United States, 2013*



Percentage of burglaries per region¹:



45.2% SOUTH

24.2% WEST

19.9% MIDWEST

10.8% NORTHEAST

Providing solutions to help our members manage risk.SM



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