



## House Tips

### 1. Keep all windows and doors locked.

Consider installing deadbolt locks which usually lock with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. Lock your doors every time you leave even if you're leaving for just a few minutes.

### 2. Keep garage doors closed and locked.

An open garage door, with no car in sight, is a clear invitation to a burglar, especially if the garage is used to store items such as bicycles, power mowers, etc.

### 3. Create an illusion that you are home.

If your home appears occupied, a burglar will usually look for other more inviting sites.

- Leave a radio playing.
- Leave a few lights on. Automatic timers can be used to vary the on/off pattern of interior lights when you are away.

### 4. If leaving for an extended period of time:

- Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home.
- Stop newspaper deliveries.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail or ask the post office to hold your mail.
- Notify the [Harlingen Police Department](#) that you plan to be away. Once we have been alerted of your absence, we will schedule periodic checks of your home.

### 5. Mark your property for Identification.

Consider engraving your valuables with your driver's license number. (TX 00000000). Marked property can be traced and identified as yours and serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars. Maintain a list of your property with the serial numbers for future reference.



## Vehicle Tips

1. Always lock your car, even when you are in it.
2. Never leave your keys in the ignition.
3. Never leave your car running while unattended.
4. Never leave anything of value inside your car.
5. Place shopping bags, cd's, etc. in the trunk of your car, or keep them out of plain view.

**REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY TO THE POLICE.**

**REMEMBER, AN OPEN OR UNLOCKED WINDOW OR DOOR INVITES BURGLARS.**



Harlingen Police Department

1102 S. Commerce P.O. Box 1631 Harlingen, Texas 78550

# Burglary Information Pamphlet



**HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**1102 S. Commerce**  
**Harlingen, Texas 78550**

Emergency Services Only	911
Main Information	(956) 427-8750
Dispatch/Non-Emergency	(956) 427-8787
Crime Stoppers (425-TIPS)	(956) 425-8477
Fax:	(956) 427-8794

# Burglary

Having your home burglarized can be one of the most traumatizing and frustrating experiences of a lifetime. Many residents often feel as though they and their families have been personally violated and no longer feel safe in their own homes. Unfortunately, the most common and worse feeling they experience is when they realize the thief has taken an item of great sentimental value - something that cannot be replaced.

The Harlingen Police Department is providing you this pamphlet in an effort to help you file your burglary report. It provides you with helpful information and explains what you can do to help us provide the most efficient service possible.

## **What Happens When I Report a Burglary?**

In most cases, a police officer will come to your home and make a brief report, listing information that was stolen (electronics, jewelry, clothing, etc.). The officer will also examine the crime scene to determine how suspects gained entrance, what tools were used (if any), what the suspects did while inside your home and any other information indicating what particular method of operation was used. Prior to leaving, the officer will provide you with a copy of this pamphlet and a **Case Number** for your report.

## **When Do I Send My Completed List of Stolen Property?**

At the time the report is taken by the reporting officer, you may not be able to give a complete list of stolen property. A form has been provided inside this pamphlet that will help you organize a list of all stolen property. Once you have compiled a total list of stolen property, you can mail this list to:

### **Harlingen Police Department**

Records Division

P. O. Box 1631

Harlingen, TX 78551-1631

You may also deliver it in person at any time to the Harlingen Police Department, 1102 South Commerce Street, Harlingen. **Please remember to include your name, address, and your Case Number on all written correspondence.**

## **What Happens to My Burglary Report?**

Your report is reviewed by an investigative supervisor who determines to whom the case will be assigned. Certain factors are used to determine how the case will be processed through the Investigative Division.

Once your case is assigned, an investigator will contact you by letter or telephone within 5 business days. This investigator will be your contact person.

## **How Do Investigators Proceed With These Cases?**

Burglary investigators analyze each case, comparing various characteristics exhibited by the burglar. Investigators use crime analysis, intelligence, and physical evidence to compare each case with known burglary offenders and known methods of operation.

Investigators also monitor local pawn shops and compare property sold with your written list of stolen items. If you provide a serial number on a stolen item, we list this item into the N.C.I.C. (National Crime Information Center) computer. Every police department in the nation can then identify your property if it is located. Investigators also attend intelligence meetings with area police departments to exchange information regarding active burglars and crime analysis trends.

## **If You Have Any Questions Concerning Your Case, Please Contact:**

Harlingen Police Department

### **Criminal Investigations**

(956) 427-8750 ext. 763

Your Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_



