

## Theft Prevention

We often hear stories that folks move to Tellico Village for the friendly, active environment this community offers. We are a community of “good neighbors” that often look after one another. However, we are not immune to the occasional bad actors that infiltrate to take advantage of the trusting, friendly nature of inhabitants of The Village and we are not unaffected from theft.

Here are some reminders of how to protect your home and belongings.

1. Security System: There are many security system options on the market today. From camera doorbells to security company monitored systems, research to decide what is right for you. Even if you decide to forego a security system, you can put up security system signs, window decals and fake cameras without actually investing in the service. Just the appearance of a monitored home can deter a would-be burglar.
2. Motion Sensor Lights: Outdoor landscape lighting is a great way to light up areas around your home. However, you may not want to have your home lit up all night long. A good alternative would be to install motion sensor lights around your home and boat dock that come on only when sensing motion. Be sure to install the lights high enough so that the bulbs cannot be removed.
3. Garage Door: Keep the garage door closed when you are not in the garage. An open garage door not only exposes all your cool toys and tools to those that pass by but can also provide an opportunity for an intruder to grab something quickly even in broad daylight!
4. Be a Neighbor: Neighbors can play a key role in preventing home thefts. Closely knit neighbors are more likely to call the police if they see someone poking around your property.
5. Keep Valuables Outside the Bedroom: Cash and jewelry are most commonly stored in the master bedroom. That is the first place a burglar on the hunt for valuables will stop. Find another room to store them.
6. Radio, TV, Lights On: Leave the music or television on when not at home for short periods of time to give the illusion that someone is there. Putting lights on timers when you are away will make it appear you are home.
7. Keep Landscaping Minimal: Abundant bushes and trees make for great cover for burglars. Yards with less shrubbery and more open spaces aren't particularly appealing targets.
8. Secure Outdoor Items: Not everything can be under lock and key. However, trailer hitch locks can deter theft of anything than can be hooked up to the back of a truck and chains and padlocks may protect other items that could be carted away.
9. Hold Mail: Have your mail held at the post office when you are away. This is easy to sign up for by creating an account at <http://usps.com>
10. Carefully Dispose of Packaging: Don't put out boxes of high-value items to be picked up by the garbage/recycling company. Break down the boxes so you cannot see what was in it or deliver the boxes to a local recycling center.

Tellico Village is a great and safe place to live. However, we can all do our part to discourage theft!