



General Crime Prevention Tips

Three factors must be present for a crime to occur: desire, ability and opportunity. This is called the “crime triangle.” You can have a significant impact on the last one, ‘opportunity’, and can significantly reduce crime by taking simple crime prevention steps. By removing *any* of the elements in the crime triangle, a crime cannot occur.

At Home

- Use a peep hole in the door or look through the window before opening your door.
- Always demand identification from strangers (even repair or sales persons that you are expecting).
- Always lock up your home before leaving.
- Don't hide your house keys outdoors *anywhere*.
- Use interior and exterior lighting at all times.
- Have keys ready and in your hand for immediate use when you return home.
- Mark items with an engraver. Marysville Police Department Crime Prevention Unit has one available for your use at no charge.

When Walking or Jogging

- Plan your route ahead of time. Never walk or jog alone at night; go with a friend or your dog.
- Use well lit streets; avoid dark alleys and bushy areas.
- Carry signaling devices like shriek alarms or a whistle.
- Carry pepper spray (requires a short training course first).
- BE ALERT! Look behind you frequently.
- NEVER ask for or accept a ride from a stranger.
- Don't carry large sums of money or wear valuable jewelry.
- Don't resist an armed robber - hand over whatever is demanded quickly and quietly.
- Your life and safety are worth more than any personal property.

Purse Protection

- If possible, don't carry one! Never carry anything inside it that you can't afford to lose.
- Carry your purse across the front of your body, with your forearm across the front of the purse and your elbow held tightly against your side.
- If someone attempts to steal your purse, don't just hand it over, as this will allow the robber to grab your wrist or arm. Throw the purse as far away from you as possible and run away as fast as you can.
- Carry your keys, wallet or other valuables in pockets in your clothes.
- Carry minimum amounts of cash and credit cards.
- Keep a record of all of your card numbers.

Driving

- Always stand back from the car and look under it for the legs and feet of someone on the other side of the vehicle.
- Always look inside before entering your car.
- Lock all doors immediately after you are in the car.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.

- If a stranger approaches while you are in the car, keep the windows up, doors locked and engine running. DO NOT roll down the window to see what he or she wants! Drive away.
- Honk your horn if you need to attract attention.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Park your car in such a position that no one can block you to prevent you from leaving.
- Always lock your car when leaving it.
- Consider installing an auto burglar alarm system.
- Don't leave anything valuable in your car if at all possible.

Garage Sales

Garage sales are generally safe. HOWEVER, here are some precautions.

- Do not advertise garage sales as a "moving sale;" this implies that the house may be vacant for extended periods of time.
- Do not answer personal questions about the house such as type of alarm, daytime occupancy, etc.
- Do not let people inside (to use the bathroom, phone, etc).
- Hide or destroy boxes from computers, TV's, VCR's, etc. Don't accidentally advertise that you own such valuable items.

**For more information, call the Marysville Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit at (530) 749-3955.**