

# CRIME PREVENTION

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

## NEWSLETTER

### Securing Sliding Doors and Windows

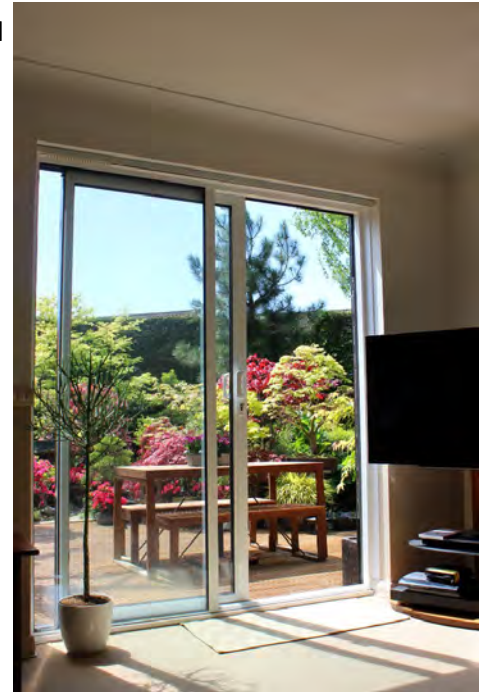
Sliding doors and windows are popular in many homes for their aesthetic appeal and functionality, but they can also be an easy target for thieves if not properly secured. Thieves look for the path of least resistance and an unsecured sliding door or window provides an opportunity. While these entry points may vary in size, they can be protected using similar crime prevention methods.

#### Lock Your Sliding Door and Windows

One of the simplest, yet most effective, security tip is to always ensure your sliding doors and windows are locked. It is easy to forget, especially when you're at home or just stepping out for a short time. However, an unlocked window or sliding door is an open invitation to thieves as they often look for easy access points. Make it a habit to check all locks before leaving the house and before going to bed.

#### Invest in Crime Prevention Tools

Without additional reinforcements, sliding doors and windows are vulnerable. Standard locks can be easily compromised due to the weaknesses in common lock designs. Below are some common tools:



- **Track stoppers** – Place a metal security bar or wooden dowel in the track of your sliding door. Make sure it is well fitted to prevent thieves from dislodging it from the track system. Window track stoppers are effective at restricting how far the window can be opened, making it more difficult for burglars to force it beyond a certain point.
- **Window Security Film** – A transparent film applied to windows or sliding door can make it harder for intruders to shatter the glass.
- **Security Pins or Screws** – Install screws and security pins to prevent thieves from lifting the door or window out of its track. These tools can also be used for windows that are non-sliding in design making it harder for thieves to pry or force open.
- **Alarms and Sensors** – These devices can alert you and scare off intruders if tampering is detected, depending on which alarm you have. For example, an alarm that detects glass break may not alert you if the window was forced open by a tool or by hand. Pairing a contact sensor alarm and a glass break alarm effectively detects glass breaking and prying.



Protecting your sliding doors and windows not only secures your home, but also provides peace of mind. By implementing these tips, you make your property less attractive to thieves. Don't leave your security to chance, act now to reduce the risk of break and enter.

## Online Marketplace Transactions Safety

Peer-to-peer online selling and trading platforms, like Facebook Marketplace, are becoming increasingly popular. They make buying new or second-hand goods as easy as pushing a button. Although these platforms offer convenience and are eco-friendly, they come with certain risks. Many individuals have fallen victim to crimes such as theft or fraud during in-person purchases and exchanges.

### To minimize risk, follow these safety tips:

- **Use the Safe Exchange Zone:** Whenever possible, conduct transactions at the Richmond RCMP Safe Exchange Zone, located at the main detachment lobby (11411 No. 5 Road), with CCTV coverage and a secure environment, during the following business hours:
  - ◇ Monday to Friday: 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
  - ◇ Weekends and statutory holidays: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- **Meet in public, well-lit locations:** Avoid secluded or private areas. Opt for public spaces with significant foot traffic or surveillance cameras.
- **Avoid evening transactions:** Schedule meet-ups during daylight or early evening hours to increase visibility and safety.
- **Bring a companion:** Having someone with you can deter potential criminal behaviour and provide added security.
- **Limit personal information:** Avoid sharing your address, workplace, or daily routine with the buyer or seller.
- **Trust your instincts:** If anything feels suspicious or unsafe, prioritize your safety and leave the area immediately.



Remember that personal safety is paramount when engaging in any transaction. Being proactive and cautious can significantly reduce risks and help ensure a smooth and secure exchange. It's always better to err on the side of caution and prioritize your well-being. By taking these precautions, you can confidently navigate transactions while minimizing potential risks.

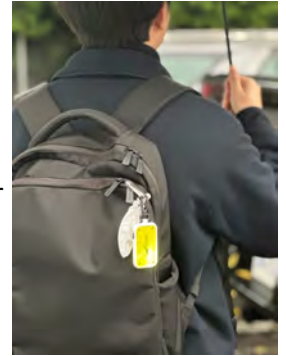
## Prevent Theft From Auto

Theft from vehicle is an opportunistic crime. People often leave items in their car out of convenience. The common expectation is that nothing will happen because they are stepping away for just a moment or they'll come back soon to grab the item. However, thieves only need a couple of seconds to break in and steal your valuables. Common things that are stolen include: wallets, sunglasses, laptops, headphones/earbuds, keys, backpacks, and purses. Some of these items can lead to other crimes such as break and enter, fraud, and identity theft. Help curb theft from auto by removing or hiding your valuables and locking your vehicle. Remove everything from sight. If you need it in your car, hide it in the trunk. Lastly, lock your vehicle at all times even when you are leaving for just a few seconds. Double check your vehicle if you are unsure if your vehicle is locked.



## Pedestrian Safety— A Shared Responsibility

Busy intersections and regular winter occurrences, such as rainy weather and shorter daylight hours, can reduce visibility and increase risks on the road. To raise awareness of pedestrian safety, Richmond RCMP volunteers have distributed reflectors throughout the winter months. Attach them on your jacket or bag to make yourself more visible. Both pedestrians and drivers share the responsibility of ensuring road safety— neither can afford to ignore the hazards of the road. Whether you are behind the wheel or walking, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and others.



As a pedestrian, wear bright or reflective clothing to enhance visibility. Always use crosswalks, check both directions, and wait for vehicles to come to a complete stop before crossing. Remove earphones and put down your phone while crossing to stay alert to your surroundings.

As a driver, reduce your speed in poor road conditions and stay vigilant, especially at intersections and crosswalks where pedestrians may be crossing. Avoid using your phone, as driving while distracted is both illegal and dangerous.



Lastly, both pedestrians and drivers should make eye contact and acknowledge each other before crossing. This simple step can help ensure a safer and smoother crossing for everyone.

## To Start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the community together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

### Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain has to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

### Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Captain/Co-Captain, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

### Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once the above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at [blockwatch@richmond.ca](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca) or call 604-207-4829.

# BUSINESS LINK

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### The Importance of Signage

Signage is a powerful tool for your business because it plays a critical role in navigation, safety, and crime prevention. Signs can be paired with existing crime prevention tools such as security cameras and alarms to further highlight the effectiveness of these tools. Lastly, signage is an important component to the theory of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). They can be used as an extension to territorial reinforcements and adds an enforceable boundary. Territorial reinforcement relates to the ability to distinguish public and private property.

For example, a “Keep Out” sign placed on the entrance of a private lot will notify people that this is a prohibited area. In addition, a “Staff Only” sign inside the store can let customers know that the other room is for employees only. The signs in these examples extend territorial reinforcement and adds an enforceable boundary. If the “Keep Out” or “Staff Only” sign is brightly lit and visible, people will see the signage and know which is private and/or public property. Staff members who see a stranger near a “Keep Out” sign will immediately know that there is suspicious activity. Additional signs such as “Area Under Surveillance” or “Shoplifters Will Be Prosecuted” warns potential thieves and enhances deterrence by reminding people they’re being monitored. These signs can be used in the interior to deter shoplifters.

Finally, an effective sign requires 3 elements: appearance, visibility, and maintenance. The appearance of your sign must have concise wording that is easy to understand and is visible from a distance. Second, maintain the visibility of the sign by keeping it well lit at night. In poor weather conditions, position it at eye level near entry points. Lastly, keep your sign clean and clear by taking care of the wear and tear. Unkept signs may show abandonment, which suggests that no one is looking after the place. This is often a clue to thieves that the area is without supervision, which can lead to a break and enter.



#### Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line [604-278-1212](tel:604-278-1212). If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at [bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report](https://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report) for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

