

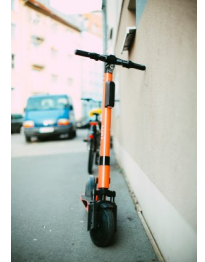
CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Scooting Off With Crime Prevention

The term micromobility is used to describe the range of small, lightweight vehicles such as bikes, e-scooters, and e-bikes. Summer weather and the increasing popularity for e-scooters entice people to use their micromobility devices to travel around the city. Whether you are going to the park or a local coffee shop, it is important to never leave your scooter or bike unlocked. Although the design of bikes and an e-scooters are different, these locks are universal for securing them.



Below is a comparison of the most commonly used locks.

LOCKS	PROS	CONS
D OR U LOCK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tough, not as easily defeated by bolt cutters Visual deterrent A proven design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not flexible, shorter designs may be difficult to loop through bike racks Heavy
CHAIN LOCK OR CABLE LOCK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malleable, goes around different objects Visual deterrent Versatile Can be used as a secondary lock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighter chains are easier to beat compared to heavier ones Bulky and heavy Cannot be your primary lock
FOLDING LOCK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malleable, goes around different objects Visual deterrent Lightweight design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thin and moving parts make it vulnerable to attacks Not as secure as D locks

Learning how to lock your micromobility device is a crucial skill. The general rule of thumb is to lock your bike/ scooter frame and the bike rack together with your primary lock. If locking all these features are not possible, make sure the lock is tightly secured around components that cannot be easily removed. Some e-scooter designs have built in slots specifically for locking. Ensure your lock is not touching the ground as thieves can use the ground as leverage to smash the lock.

E-Scooter Skills Challenge

This past month, Richmond RCMP hosted an e-scooter skills challenge. Riders were able to test their riding skills and learn the rules for riding an e-scooter. Here are the rules for e-scooters:

- Must wear a helmet
- Operate on designated cycling lanes and ride on roadways where permitted
- Must not operate on sidewalks or unpaved trails, and yield to pedestrians
- Maximum 20km/h on roadways and 15km/h on shared paved pathways
- Only one person can ride/operate the e-scooter and must be 16 years old or older



Preparing for Summer

Summer is time for vacation and relaxation. Unfortunately, thieves are never on vacation as they are always looking for opportunities to steal. It is important to take time to remind ourselves to stay vigilant and renew our crime prevention habits for the summer. Whether you are going on a day trip, going on a long vacation, or staying at home, there are details you need to look at through the lens of crime prevention.

Below are elements to pay extra attention to when preparing for summer activities:

Vacation Plans

Whether it is a short or long trip, it is important to know how fraudsters can trick you with the convenience of booking vacations online. Always use a well known website or a reputable travel agent. Unknown third party sites could have hidden fees, inaccurate information, or fraudulent deals. Do not get tricked by websites with sales that are too good to be true. Scammers prey on people looking for the next cheap deal by using high pressure sales tactics. They do not want you to take your time to research their “deal” as it is a lie. Thus, do your research and always choose a well-known, reputable company or website.

Once you have booked your online reservation, call the company afterwards to confirm they have a record of your trip. If there is a complication with your reservation, you will have time to find a solution before you travel. Another crime prevention aspect to pay attention to is social media. Do not announce your vacation plans online because it tells thieves that you are going away.

Your Vehicle

Roll up the windows and lock your vehicle to prevent theft from auto. Thieves will steal anything. Commonly stolen items include bags, light jackets, personal electronics, sunglasses, tools, shoes, and wallets. Remove the chance of being victimized by crime by removing all items from plain sight in your vehicle.

Your Home

Are you opening the window to let fresh air into your home? Are you preparing to leave for vacation? Before you leave the house, make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked, including those on the second floor. Remove any items that can be used by thieves to climb onto the second floor. Next, take some time to work on the exterior of your home. Unkept bushes or trees conceal thieves and offer limited vision for neighbours and yourself for surveillance. Trim the shrubbery and trees so others can see your points of entry from the street.



Monitor Your Home

Some crime prevention tools have benefitted from recent significant upgrades as technology continues to improve. For example, some cameras and alarms can connect to your mobile phone and alert you in real time. Furthermore, you can save the footage from the camera in high definition and receive live notifications to monitor your home while you are away. However, a common issue is not learning how to download the footage. Learning how to utilize your camera is an effective way to monitor your home while you are away, and can help with evidence. Go through the settings and download test footage to verify the camera is working properly.

In the event of a break-in or suspicious activity, a camera can alert you and provide police with footage of the incident. Furthermore, lights are an important addition to compliment your camera. Bright lights uncover hidden spots and allow your camera to capture more details. Periodically check that all your crime prevention tools are updated and working correctly before leaving the home.



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 or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Enhancing Window Security for Commercial Buildings

The windows to your commercial building are not only an architectural design, but are also a security feature. Common ways to gain entry include smashing the window with a tool or object found on the exterior of the business, using a tool to pry open a window, or finding an unlocked window. Therefore, it is important to invest in the security of your windows to save on the inconvenience and costly repairs from a break-in.



Enhance your windows with these recommended measures:

1. **Lock your windows**— Ensure windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving the business. Install auxiliary locks to strengthen your window from prying.
2. **Increase visibility to the exterior of your business**— Lighting increases visibility and discourages criminal activity as it uncovers hidden spots. Bright lighting paired with a working security camera will help monitor your business effectively and the lights will help the camera capture more details.
3. **Install security film**— The film can make your glass stronger. If hit by force, the glass may shatter but the security film should hold the glass together.
4. **Clean up the exterior**— Thieves will use anything available to them to break a window or gain access to an open window. Remove any rocks, tools, ladders, or furniture that can facilitate a break-in.
5. **Install contact sensor or glass break alarms**— These two additions work best when paired together because they address each others' weakness. A contact sensor detects movement of the window. When it is disturbed, the alarm will sound. However, its weakness is it does not sense glass breaking. Thus, a glass break alarm is beneficial when paired with a contact sensor. The glass break alarm will sense the vibrations that occur when glass breaks. Hence, the pairing of sensors and alarms will greatly benefit the monitoring systems for your business.

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 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

