



TO THE HOUSEHOLDER

There was recently a burglary of a property in your immediate area, and you can help reduce the likelihood of another offence being committed.

Please be alert to any suspicious activity and report your concerns to Police.

If you witness any suspicious activity ring 111 immediately.

If you are not already in a Neighbourhood Support Group and are interested in having a group established, go to www.ns.rotorua.info or contact the coordinator on 07- 3499470- they will organise things for you. There is no cost involved.

REDUCING THE CHANCES OF BEING BURGLIED

- If it is affordable an alarm system is an effective deterrent to the burglar
- When going out do not leave windows partly open - even on warmer days.
- Lock doors to home, and any shed and/or garage, even when leaving the house for a short time.
- Lock all tools and ladders away securely.
- If spending time in the garden lock the other end of the house.
- If taking time out for a nap, reading, showering, spending some time watching TV, or listening to the radio in one part of the house, please lock your doors.
- Always lock doors and windows at night.
- Lock and remove valuables from vehicles even if they are in your driveway.
- Have a trusted person look after your place while you are away - ensure mail and papers are cleared or stopped - make the house looked lived in. A good idea is a light on a timer.
- Tell trusted neighbours when you are going away, and when you may return. Leave contact details and a spare key - do not leave a spare key hidden.
- Get neighbour to close curtains at night; draw during the day and to report any suspicious behaviour
- Keep a record of your valuable items - go to www.SNAP.org.nz and register for use of the **free** data base - it is private to you and can be edited at any time.
- Now would be a good time to reassess your own security – house alarm, deadlocks, security stays on windows and security lights- these things do deter thieves.

IDENTIFYING YOUR VALUABLES

When claiming insurance, you must be able to prove you owned the stolen items. Keep receipts, warranties, valuations and a list of serial numbers in a safe place. Take photographs or videos of jewellery, art works and other precious things. Keep these records in a safe place and not just in your computer or laptop; (i.e. one electronic copy and one hard copy is a suggestion.)

REMEMBER: Portable items of high value are the most likely things to be stolen.

MARK YOUR VALUABLES

Burglars are unlikely to steal items that are permanently marked, because they're hard to sell. Engrave valuable items with your drivers licence number, car registration number or even phone number and consider photographing the location of such engravings and keeping a copy.

If you have engraved your valuable property or recorded the serial numbers of items, Neighbourhood Support can provide you with a "WARNING" sticker to put on a window. The sticker will discourage most criminals from taking your property because they know there is a greater risk of getting caught or traced if they handle and attempt to sell identifiable goods.

OPERATION SNAP

Anyone is able to record serial numbers and other unique identifying details of their valuable goods in an electronic database. For more information and to register your goods, visit www.SNAP.org.nz

If you wish to pass on information and remain confidential, also consider "Crimestoppers" and use the free contact phone number: **0800 555 111**.

*More crime prevention information is available through www.police.govt.nz (click on the Safety Tips link) or by contacting Rotorua Police on **07 3480099**.*

