

Burglary statistics can be startling. On average, one out of every six homes will be burglarized a year. Keep your doors and windows locked.

- According to the FBI 2015 statistics in the United States, burglaries account for 19.8 % of property crimes.
- Would be door-to-door solicitors may be used to detect if anyone is home.
- Half of all burglaries take place without forced entry. In many cases, the burglar uses a key or locates an unsecured door or window.
- The average burglar will give up and move on if they cannot get in within a few minutes.
- Barking dogs or noise within the home is often a deterrent.



Protect Your Home's Exterior

- CLOSE AND LOCK ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS. Use deadbolts with at least a one inch throw.
- Display your house number in plain view.
- Install lighting at all entrances, including decks, porches, sheds and garages.
- Trim back any overgrown trees and shrubs from window ledges. Overgrown landscaping provides burglars with a place to hide.
- Neighbors, passing motorists and police officers should be able to see your windows and doors. Close your blinds at night.
- Do not leave ladders in your yard. Be sure to secure them in your garage or shed.
- Reinforce sliding glass doors with slide bolt through the frame and a block in the track.
- Do not hide keys outside your home.
- Do not leave your garage door openers inside your vehicle. Lock interior garage doors.
- Alternate the location/direction of your parked vehicle (s) to avoid predictability.

New Castle County Police
Community Services Unit
395-8050

Protect Your Home's Interior

- Install dead bolt locks on all entrance and exit doors and make sure you use them every time you leave the residence. Many burglaries occur when a homeowner leaves for only a short time. ***If you leave it—lock it!***
- Install window locks. Always make sure ground floor windows are secure. There are bands of burglars who are organized. One will distract you while a partner climbs through an unlocked window.
- Install a “Door Viewer” or “Peep Hole” so you can see who is knocking at the door. If you don’t know who it is, do not open it.
- Do not leave information on your social networking sites or voice mail detailing your travel plans.
- Use timers on your lights to give the appearance that someone is home. Consider leaving a radio or television on.
- Cut up, fold or recycle boxes from recent expensive purchases instead of leaving them curbside.
- Do not leave your garage door open when outside doing yard work or other chores.

Programs offered by the New Castle County Police Community Services Unit:

The following programs are offered to community, church, civic, youth and other organizations free of charge:

- Block Watch
- Building Tours
- Burglary Prevention
- Halloween Safety
- Identity Theft
- Internet Safety
- Officer Friendly/Stranger Danger
- Personal Safety
- Police Athletic Leagues
- Project Lifesaver
- Senior Roll Call Lifeline
- Youth & the Law

**Police
Emergency 9-1-1
Non-emergency 573-2800**

In Delaware, **CALL 911** if you can.

TEXT 911 IF YOU CAN'T.

Voice calls to 911 are still the best and fastest way to contact 911 for emergencies.

“Text-to-9-1-1” is intended for use in three emergencies scenarios:

1. For an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing or has a speech disability.
2. For someone who is in a situation where it is not safe to place a voice call to 911.
3. A medical emergency that renders the person incapable of speech.

Texting to 911

Enter 911 in the “to” or “Recipient” fields. Keep text short, text location of emergency and ask for Police, Fire or Ambulance. Answer questions or follow instructions from 911 call taker.

Preferred language to text is English.

Photos and videos cannot be sent at this time. Text can only include one person.

“Text-to- 9-1-1” is not available everywhere and not always available when roaming. If you do not receive a text response from 911, contact 911 another way.

WARNING TO PRANK TEXTERS:

“Text-to-9-1-1” is for use in an Emergency only. Prank texters can be identified and prosecuted according to local laws and regulations.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

BURGLARY PREVENTION



**New Castle County Police
Community Services Unit
(302) 395-8050**