

For Immediate Release

Staycation this year? Longer days and warmer nights? Don't let your guard down at home this summer with "9 at 9"

*The sun's up longer and you're on the patio later...all the more reason
to protect your home from crooks*

Vancouver, B.C. (June 19, 2019) – The longest day of the year is upon us, when sunset is well after 9 o'clock. The nights are warmer and we tend to leave windows, patio doors and garages open.

What can go wrong – you're in the backyard, right? Some of us can be too lax about it when we stay home, thinking everything's safe just because we're nearby.

"Open doors and windows, unlocked cars in the driveway, and leaving valuables like bikes sitting outside your yard and are invitations to crooks. No one can watch everything around the house all the time, even from the back patio," says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. "Brighter evenings can leave us with a false sense of security. We should all remember to do a quick, basic security check around the house every night of the year whether its light out or dark. It's common sense."

Even on the longest day of the year when it's still light out, police recommend everyone do a check around the home about 9:00 P.M. every night.

Think "9 at 9" – Nine things you can do at 9 PM:

1. Remove everything from inside your car – from valuables and garage door openers, to pop bottles and pocket change.
2. Roll up the windows tight and lock all the doors.
3. Lock up bikes, ladders and even garden equipment
4. Make sure all garage doors are closed and locked, including the one inside that leads into your home.
5. Close and lock all doors and windows on your home.
6. Set the alarm and check your video security equipment (you'd be surprised how many people skip it in the summer).
7. Leave an exterior light on overnight, so your front door isn't hidden in darkness.
8. Make sure deliveries from online orders have been picked up from your front step.
9. Don't let newspapers and flyers pile up – it looks like no one's home.

“Never assume ‘it’ll be ok’ just because it’s summertime and things are more relaxed. Crooks don’t go on vacation in the summer, so if you see something out of the ordinary in your neighbourhood, call police right away, or call Crime Stoppers anonymous tips line,” Annis says. “Our Crime Stoppers app makes it especially easy and quick to do this on your smartphone. Your tip may lead to an arrest, and possibly a reward.”

(See backgrounder attached for more summer safety tips for when you go away on vacation)

Reporting to Crime Stoppers

Tips on home break-ins and theft can be provided to Crime Stoppers by telephone, online at solvecrime.ca or through Crime Stoppers’ tips reporting app for smartphones. It’s available from the App Store or from the Play Store by searching “P3”. When reporting your tip on the app, “Break and Enter” is one of the many offenses found in the list of reportable crimes.

All tips from the public are passed on to authorities to investigate. Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is not the police and doesn’t record phone calls, log IP addresses and won’t use your name. Tipsters are provided with a code number and if their information results in a charge, a reward of up to \$2,000 may be offered.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

People can leave anonymous tips in a variety of ways including Crime Stoppers’ smartphone app, calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, online at solvecrime.ca, by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#) or using the new Crime Stoppers tip reporting app. Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages. If the information provided results in a charge or an arrest, a cash reward may be offered. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to collect their rewards.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is not the police and operates solely on funds donated or generated through fundraising events. Tax-deductible donations are gratefully received anytime by accessing the “donate” link at solvecrime.ca. Follow us on Twitter: [@solvecrime](https://twitter.com/solvecrime)

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BACKGROUNDER

Vacation tips to prevent “summertime crime” once you’ve left home

Be prepared to report any crime by downloading the Crime Stoppers App and keeping it on your phone

- The “P3” app allows you to use your smartphone to report any crime anonymously. No need to remember numbers to call. The app also allows you to upload pictures, phone video, documents and more with your tip.

Leave your house with a “lived-in” look

- If ordering merchandise online and having it delivered, make sure the package doesn’t sit on the doorstep.
- If going away, cancel newspaper and bottled water deliveries – and ask a trusted neighbour to collect your mail, and maybe have them park their car in your driveway.

Close it up – lock it up

- Vacation or staycation, it doesn’t matter - close and lock all windows and doors and set security alarms. This includes garage doors. When leaving your home, use timers on lights and leave radios on to create the impression that someone is still home.
- Don't leave a spare key outside under a mat or flower plant pot – like they do in the movies. Better to leave the spare key with a trusted neighbour or friend.

And if you leave town this summer...

- Once you’ve left, don't post public messages on social media that will tip off any shady characters that you're far, far away.
- Don't reveal your holiday plans to strangers, not even the cabbie or bus driver taking you to the airport.
- Anyone you do tell about your vacation plans, make it sound like you have a house sitter (even if you don’t).
- Don’t put your full home address on your luggage. A postal code is good enough.
- Lock up bikes, yard tools and ladders in your shed, your house or in the garage.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed near windows and entries - don’t give skulking burglars a place to hide.