

For Immediate Release

HIGH-TECH HOME SECURITY HELPS PREVENT SUMMER CRIME - ESPECIALLY WHEN COMBINED WITH SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN “TRIED AND TRUE” SOLUTIONS

Vancouver, B.C. (June 26, 2024) – Combining today’s high-tech and affordable home security solutions with simpler, “old school” ways we’ve known about for years, is the best way to maximize your home and personal safety as “summer crime season” begins.

“We see someone’s home security or doorbell video on the news almost every night, with images of suspicious looking people lurking around, or things like porch pirates in action,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “The fact these videos run on TV so much is proof of just how effective and reliable they are, but adding in some overlooked, low-tech ways also helps prevent crimes before they can happen. There’s a list of time-tested things that some people still ignore and should add in to supplement their video and alarm systems, to keep ahead of the crooks.”

The high-tech...

- Get security cameras and alarm systems, preferably with a monitoring service and the ability to record videos.
- Remember to set electronic timers on interior and exterior lights to give the appearance your place isn’t vacant.
- Lots of people post social media pictures while away on holiday. Consider waiting until you get home, otherwise those Facebook or Instagram posts are like advertising to thieves that your home is empty and ready to be burgled.
- Register your home security camera with one of the community-based, closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera registries around the Lower Mainland like [Surrey's "Project IRIS"](#) or [North Vancouver RCMP's "Project OPTIC"](#). These give police permission to contact you and access video data from your camera on a case-by-case basis, should the need arise for video evidence during any crime investigations near you. These programs are totally voluntary.

...and the low-tech

- Get friendly with your neighbours. Extra eyes on your home while you are away can make a big difference
- Have a family member, trusted friend, or neighbour visit your property occasionally to check on it and collect your mail, flyers and newspapers, and cut your front lawn if you’re away for an extended period so it appears as though someone is home.
- Make sure any online delivery packages are quickly picked up from your front step.
- Ask a neighbour to park in your driveway while you are gone to leave the impression that someone is home.

- Maybe someone can put out your trash bins for you on garbage collection day – or maybe just take pass while away. If your trash and recycling bins are the only ones still out on your street, it probably means you are away.
- Try disconnecting your automated garage door opener and don't leave your garage door opener in plain view in the car.
- Secure all tools, patio furniture, bikes, ladders and the barbecue by locking them down or storing them in a locked shed or garage.

"If you see something out of the ordinary in your neighbourhood, call police right away. Or if you know who's behind break-ins on your street, or any other crime, send an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers. Your tip may lead to an arrest, and possibly a reward of up to \$5000," Annis adds.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

First established in the Lower Mainland 40 years ago, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators.

Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers' downloadable "**P3**" app for **Apple and Android phones**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477**, online at solvecrime.ca, or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#).

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest, a charge, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns, or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Find MVCS on X (Twitter): [@solvecrime](#), Instagram: [metrovancovercrimestoppers](#) and You Tube: [@metrovancovercrimestoppers](#).

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