

Typical Items Stolen From a Garage

Many people do not realize the valuables that they leave unattended when their garage door is left open. Here are just a few items you might find in an average garage, and the dollar amount that each one could potentially cost:

- Push lawnmower — \$269.99
- Weed whacker — \$89.99
- Set of golf clubs — \$734.99
- Cordless drill — \$139.99
- Bicycle — \$329.99
- Aluminum baseball bat — \$169.99
- The family vehicle — Priceless

The Crystal Lake Police Department offers bicycle registration to all residents. The registration application is available on the City's website. This greatly aids the Department in locating your bicycle if it has been stolen or misplaced. Also, consider engraving your other valuables with a unique serial number, and keeping accurate record of these numbers. If you are the victim of a burglary, the serial numbers will allow us to identify your stolen valuables and return them to you the rightful owner.



Crystal Lake Police Department Contact Information:

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency: (815) 356-3620

Fax: (815) 477-4732

www.crystallake.org

Police Department Lobby Hours:

Monday thru Friday 8:00a.m. — 10:00p.m.

Officers are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. After hours use the phone at front entrance.



Crystal Lake Police Department
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Close the Door



on Garage Burglaries



An informational brochure brought
to you by
Crystal Lake Police Department and
the City of Crystal Lake

What is a Garage Burglary?

Garage Burglaries are crimes of opportunity which occur in almost every community throughout the United States. Garage burglars typically enter through an open garage door, or through a side door that leads into the garage.

It takes just seconds for a stranger to walk into your garage and leave without you even knowing they were there, until it is too late. Historically speaking, the amount of Garage Burglaries drastically increases with the onset of warm weather. Many people leave their garage door open while working in the yard, leave it open for a pet, or simply forget to shut the door before retiring for the evening. Whatever reason you may have for leaving the garage door open, the Crystal Lake Police Department encourages you to reconsider, and to follow the preventative techniques outlined in this brochure. Don't be the victim of a crime of opportunity, close the door on Garage Burglaries!



Prevention Techniques

A man is walking down the street late one night and observes an open garage door and no lights on in the house. As he walks up to the door, he observes a brand new set of golf clubs leaning up against the wall, and within seconds he hoists them over his shoulder and continues down the street. You were just the victim of a crime of opportunity that could have potentially been avoided if you followed a few key prevention methods:

- Close your garage door, even if you are simply doing yard work in the backyard.
- Watch to make sure your garage closes completely.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, even if it is parked in the driveway.
- Always keep the door that leads from your garage into your home locked.
- Put the items with the highest value furthest into the garage.
- If you have a side door which leads into your garage, always keep that door locked. If that door has glass panels, you might want to install a double cylinder dead bolt. This lock requires a key to unlock the door from both the outside and inside. This ensures that if a burglar breaks the glass, they cannot reach in and turn the lock to gain entry.
- Install an "open garage door" indicator, which is available at your local hardware store. A red light will illuminate on the display if the garage door is left open, reminding you to shut it.

Watch out for Your Neighbors

Neighborhood Watch groups are established all over the City of Crystal Lake. If you are not a part of your local Neighborhood Watch group, the Crystal Lake Police Department encourages you to inquire about joining. Regardless of membership, every citizen should keep an eye out for their neighbors and their property. If your neighbor has left their garage door open,

kindly knock on their door and remind them that it is open. If you see anything suspicious, or

if you happen to witness a crime in progress, please notify the Crystal Lake Police Department immediately by dialing 9-1-1. Also, take note of the perpetrator's approximate height, weight, build, age, race, gender, distinguishing features, and clothing. If a vehicle is involved, try to write down the license plate, make, model, approximate year, and color.

