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# MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

7341 Donna Drive Middleton, WI 53562

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*Brad Keil - Chief of Police*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

12/06/2012

For the past couple months, the Police Department has seen an increase in daytime residential burglaries throughout the city. According to the Investigative Services Bureau, a number of homes were entered and valuable items were taken and some of these burglaries could have been easily prevented. Reports indicate that in some of these cases the victims left their residence unsecured for a number of hours allowing the perpetrator to enter the residence with ease to remove valuable items.

Along with following these important crime prevention tips, please help your neighbors and the Police Department by calling to report any suspicious activity that you observe. We need help from our community partners residing in, working in and visiting our city to make it a safe community for all.

### **Lock your doors**

- Deadbolts locks are best, but whatever type you have - use them, even when you are at home.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked.
- Secure sliding doors and windows
  - Cut a broom's handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced.

### **Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in**

- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.

### **Outside**

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

### **If Your Home Is Broken Into**

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:

- Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor's phone to call police.

Phone: (608) 824-7300

[www.middletonpd.com](http://www.middletonpd.com)



Fax: (608) 833-9990

[police@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:police@ci.middleton.wi.us)

- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles in the area .
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons in the area.

#### **Other precautions you should take**

Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.

#### **Mark your property and document serial numbers**

- Mark valuables with an engraver. Using your driver's license number works well. Marking property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list and take pictures of your valuables, their identification numbers and model numbers with a digital camera. Burn the photos onto a flash drive and give it to a trusted friend or relative. Put highly visible warning stickers on doors and windows.
- The Middleton Police Department has partnered with LeadsOnline to provide citizens with a system for maintaining secure records of valuable property. The Middleton Police Department encourages you to sign up at <http://reportit.leadsonline.com>.

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