



Crime Prevention Tip of the Day: Exterior Lighting

Residential Vehicle Break-ins happen when we (and our vehicles) are at home. Most thieves that break into cars simply go down your street lifting up on car door handles. Remove the opportunity altogether by parking vehicles inside if you are able to.

LIGHTS! If you do park on the street or in the driveway, make sure the exterior lights shine on the vehicles. Thieves LOVE the darkness, because they can't be seen. Make it more difficult for them...turn those exterior flood lights on!

So, if we are thinking like a criminal, look at the two photos. Number 1 shows poor/no lighting with the vehicles parked in the driveway. The other has good lighting and the vehicles parked in the garage (OPPORTUNITY REMOVED). For argument's sake, let's assume there are cars parked in #2. If you were a thief that breaks into cars, you don't want to be seen. So, the more likely target would be the one where the homeowner did not have the exterior lights on. They also would be the ones to call us the next day for a report.

Lighting has been used as a means for preventing crime since the dawn of time. Properly applied lighting promotes the positive use of space, reduces fear (real or perceived) and increases the ability for criminals to be seen. Effective lighting forces a criminal to work in an area where they might be exposed/seen and therefore reported to the Police.

The fact is, criminals want to work in an environment conducive to letting them get away with their behavior. Simply put, they love dark spots when they steal. If you park your car on the street or in the driveway, and do not have the exterior lights on, then you are inviting a criminal to steal from you. All we can really do is MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM!

Consider upgrading your exterior lights to LED units. They are brighter and more energy efficient. Also, consider the "dusk to dawn" setting on the lights so you don't have to even flip a switch. They come on at night, go off when the sun comes up. Or, have the lighting set on motion detection. This would light up a potential thief when he gets near your home or vehicles. Even if you don't upgrade, at least turn your existing lights on so the vehicles and the entrances to your home can be SEEN. Remember, if you don't turn on those lights, you are inviting a criminal to break into your car.

For more crime prevention tips, visit our website at <http://www.hooverpd.com/crime-prevention.php>

1. **PARK** inside if possible.
2. **LIGHTS!** Turn the exterior lights on.
3. **TAKE** items with you. Leave nothing in plain view.
4. **LOCK** the doors.



1. Poor Lighting



2. Good Exterior Lighting

