



Cambridge Police Department

125 Sixth Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
www.cambridgepolice.org
(617) 349-3236

Housebreak Facts:

- Housebreaks most commonly occur during the day time while victims are not home, or while homeowners are away on vacation.
- Suspects have often left the scene by the time victims return home and call the police.
- A large number of housebreaks are simply attempts in which a suspect tries but is unable to gain entry to a residence.
- Unknown suspects are typically the perpetrators in Cambridge housebreaks, although a small percentage of incidents involve acquaintances or family members.
- The most common method of entry is forcing or prying open the front door.
- During the summer months entry is often made via unlocked doors, open windows, or windows containing air conditioning units.
- Laptops, jewelry, iPods, cameras, and cash are the most common items taken during a housebreak.

Request a FREE Residential Security Survey from the Cambridge Police Department, which provides a general assessment of the vulnerability of your residence.

For information, please call (617) 349-3236.



Housebreak Prevention Tips:



- Try “casing” your own home at night and during the day. Attempt to gain access to your home when the doors and windows are locked and secure. Make sure you have some identification on you in case your neighbors call the police.
- ALWAYS lock your doors and windows. Doors should be made from strong wood or metal and should be locked with a deadbolt. Install guards on windows that prevent them from being raised more than a few inches.
- Leave a light on (perhaps on a timer) when you go away, even for the evening. Leave a television or radio on as well.
- Install motion sensor lights outside your home and out of reach so burglars cannot unscrew the light. Also, buy variable light timers to activate lights inside your home.
- NEVER prop open a door or let someone in behind you if you live in an apartment building. Likewise, DO NOT “buzz in” people that are not there to visit you.
- Stop newspaper deliveries if you plan to be out of town for an extended period of time and ask a trustworthy neighbor to pick up your mail daily and check in on your house.
- Be vigilant. If you suspect suspicious activity around your home, your neighbors’ homes, or in your neighborhood, please report it to the police immediately by calling **617-349-3300**. If it’s an emergency, please dial **9-1-1**.

