

Layers of Protection

One of the most effective ways to reduce the chance of a business being burglarized is through “Layers of Protection”—using more than one prevention method. Some methods include:

Alarms

Alarm the business with audible, monitored systems. Make sure the interior of the business uses a motion detector for the alarm. Be sure to have the alarm company educate all employees on the proper use, arming and disarming of the alarm system. This is especially important for employees who open and close the business. The added education will help reduce false alarms.

Video Surveillance

When choosing a video surveillance system, be sure to pick a high quality digital system. If possible, it is best to have the monitoring and recording equipment located off site. Many times, burglars will seek out this equipment and steal it as well, leaving no evidence to identify them. Post notices that your monitoring system is off site. Choose a system that allows plenty of cameras, both inside and outside of the business, if possible. Check the equipment often to make sure there is plenty of memory left. If using a VHS tape, replace it regularly with a new tape.

Light

Lighting and good visibility are the best protection against becoming a victim of burglary. Well lit, open spaces and uncluttered windows provide no place for a burglar to hide. For exterior areas, use a dusk-to-dawn timer to make sure lights are on all night. A softly lit interior will make it easier for officers driving by to check for any unwanted, after-hours guests, too! Leaving the cash register open, empty, and visible from outside removes the promise of fast cash. Valuables, including laptops, cell phones, etc., should not be left in plain site. Strategically locate displays to hide the most valuable items. You can report anonymously, but it is helpful to the police if you share your name and contact information in case we need additional information.

Share Your Thoughts

The Ukiah Police Department’s mission is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you have any suggestions or comments about how we can improve, please complete our online survey.

If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button at www.ukiahpolice.com. You can also leave crime tips on our website.

Safeguard Your Business With Layers of Protection

- Locks
- Lights
- Alarms
- Video Surveillance
- Key Control
- Safes
- Gates
- Fences
- Landscaping
- Access Control
- Security Patrol
- Security Doors
- Window Locks
- Inventory Records
- Employee Education



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

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Ukiah Police Department Business Watch

Prevent Burglary

*How can I protect
my business?*



Common Business Burglary Methods

Many burglars are experienced at what they do for a living. Sad but true, you probably have burglars visit your business more often than you know. They are shopping now to steal later. In addition, they are looking at the inside for the best means of getting in after the front door is locked. Some of the ways they gain access to businesses are:

Exterior Doors—Prying open door locks.

Prevention Tip: Install metal guards around the deadbolt locks to protect against prying instruments (like crowbars) from forcing open the locks.

Adjoining Walls—Breaking into an adjoining business that may not have an alarm and create a hole in the wall to crawl through to the business next door.

Prevention Tip: Reinforce common walls. Reinforcing materials such as steel reinforced concrete provides the greatest protection. You can make it much more difficult and time consuming to gain entry by simply installing cabinets with reinforced backing or heavy metal shelving units affixed to the wall. Put heavy items on the bottom shelves that will make them difficult to slide away from the wall and harder to tip over.

Roof Access—Using fire escape ladders, downspouts, and other means to gain access to the roof, then going into the building through vents or holes they create.

Prevention Tip: Secure ladders and other means of roof access when not in use. Downspouts should be a part of the building, not attached to it.

Removing Windows—Removing glass panes from the window, or entire windows from a wall, door or track.

Prevention Tip: Install security laminate on the glass and an adhesive sealant around inside and outside edges up to the frame of the window casings and trim. Secure sliding windows and doors with locks and a screw inside the track to prevent lifting and removing the window.

Smash & Grab Burglary

Another type of burglary is known as a “Smash & Grab” burglary. Burglars smash a window to grab valuables and/or gain quick access to office buildings. They commonly use the most available tool—the landscaping! Large rocks, bricks, and other heavy, hand-held objects are often readily available.

Target #1: Businesses with office equipment, such as computers, printers, and closed cash registers located near doors and windows that are visible from the outside.

Target #2: Medical and dental offices that may have computer equipment as well as prescription drug samples on the premises.

Target #3: Small businesses located in professional centers and strip malls. Many of these types of businesses keep small amounts of cash or other valuables on the premises.

Target #4: Retail businesses that are not open 24/7 and usually keep small amounts of cash in cash registers located near the entrance or exit.

Prevention Tips: Revise landscaping to remove anything that can be used as a projectile to throw through a window. Install security laminate film of at least 14 ml thickness to reinforce all exterior door and window glass in the business. With a tensile strength of approximately 28,000 psi and breakage at 350 psi, these products can protect against entry by glass breakage. Leave cash registers open and empty with the cash drawer propped up in the tray at closing time.

More Tips

- Keep records of all keys and who has them. Make sure keys have “Do Not Duplicate” on them. Keep extra keys locked up.
- Make sure the address is clearly visible on the front of the building from the street and on the back of the building if there is an alley or back parking lot.
- Skylights, vents, air ducts, and crawl spaces should be secured and included in the alarm system.
- Keep a current inventory list of all office equipment with the make, model and serial number of each item. Engrave an identification number on items that do not have a serial number. (Note: Do not use a Social Security number!) Keep the list in a safe and secure location, and keep an additional copy of the list off site.
- Anchor safes securely to the floor.
- If a business appears to have been burglarized, DO NOT enter the building or allow anyone to touch anything. A burglar could still be on scene. Stay a safe distance away, preferably in a locked vehicle where the door can still be seen and call the police. DO NOT disturb any evidence!

Who Do I Call?

Emergency 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 for any life-threatening emergency or crime in progress.

Non-Emergency (707) 463-6262

Online Crime Report: ukiahpolice.com

Business Office (707) 463-6241

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

