



The Wadena County Sheriff's Office has taken a large amount of Burglary calls recently. Though Burglaries may not be able to be completely prevented, there are some things you can do to protect yourself.

- Make a list and/or photograph your most valuable possessions. Keep this list and photographs in a secure location so you are able to provide it to law enforcement if you ever become a victim. Make sure you document serial numbers, make, models, colors and any identifying characteristics of all items. This will help law enforcement in tracking down any items that are stolen. **Without this information, it makes tracking an item almost impossible.**
- Install a timer on your lights, TV's or any electronics to make it appear someone is at the home/cabin. Also, make sure you have lights installed outside so your property is well lit.
- If possible, install a good security system. MOST burglars will not know how to bypass a security system. Make sure the system is tested and works.
- If you have property that you do not visit on a regular basis, ask a neighbor or friend to check on the property on a regular basis. It is difficult for Law Enforcement to track down your items if you cannot give them a time frame as to when they were taken. The more time that passes between the date of the burglary and the date of the report to Law Enforcement- there is a lesser chance your items will be recovered.
- Install wildlife cameras at the entrance of your property as well as around the entrance areas of your buildings. Make sure the cameras are out of sight so they are not spotted and stolen by any intruders.
- Do not leave confidential information in view for everyone to see. Not only could someone be stealing your valuables- they could also be stealing your identifying information which could lead to bigger issues in the future.
- People are your best defense, be a visible nosy neighbor. Write down any license plates in the neighborhood that you feel are suspicious. Pay attention to your surrounds and report any suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency!

Statistics show it takes burglars less than a minute to break into a home, and the amount of time spent inside is a little more than 10 minutes. Don't let your house/cabin be an easy target.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office is proactive in checking properties that are unoccupied for any amount of time. If you wish to have your property added to the "Property Watch" list, please call the Wadena County Sheriff's Office at 218-631-7600.