



**Victim Services**  
**Nelson Police Department & Nelson RCMP**

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## HOME SECURITY

Your home is important to you and to Nelson Police Department. There are many steps you can take to ensure your home is safer and more secure – both while you are at home and if you leave for vacation.

- Are all doors and entrances to the house secured with good quality deadbolt locks?
- Are entrance doors either solid wood core or metal?
- Upgrade screws to the door frame strike plate that is mounted to the door jamb. A minimum of 3" screws is recommended.
- When you are at home and in the backyard keep your front door locked and vice versa.
- Are all windows properly secured?
- If you have a window air conditioner is it secured from inside?
- Do you have anti-slide protection on sliding glass doors and windows? You can use a commercially available bar or lock or something as simple as a dowel or old broom handle in the door track. Burglars often check unsecured, easy to open, sliding doors first.
- Consider keeping your blinds or curtains closed at night so people cannot see in.
- If someone knocks on the door have a peephole to identify the person or speak through your locked door until you can confirm their identity.
- Is your garage/shed secured and locked?
- Are tools, bicycles and ladders put away or locked to something that cannot be moved?
- Have you installed outside motion sensor lights? If not is your front and back door well lit?
- Have you considered setting controlled, timed lighting while you are away? Use timers on a few lamps in rooms where the light can be noticed from outside the house.
- Do you have cameras or a home security system – if not consider installing one that can be monitored by you remotely.
- Do you have an alarm system – if so, do you use it and is it monitored?
- Is your main entrance visible from the street and neighbours' homes?
- Are all shrubs and trees pruned near the home – this decreases the hiding spots for thieves.

- Do you have a keyed entry lock? If so, have you changed the password on it recently?
- Get to know your neighbours, be aware of strangers and look out for each other.
- Do you have someone monitoring your home while you're away? Make sure you let them know where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Be careful of hiding a spare set of keys somewhere on your property, consider instead leaving a set with a trusted neighbour or friend who will be checking your home – both inside and out, every few days. Alternatively, invest in a coded lock box .
- Consider asking a neighbour to park their car in your driveway or designated parking stall.
- Do not share your vacation plans on social media or leave a voicemail announcing you will be away.
- Do you have someone to pick up delivered news papers, flyers, packages or mail - daily?
- Consider having someone maintain outdoor spaces while you are away ensuring your home looks "lived in" – grass cut, leaves raked and shovelling done.
- Have you stored all your valuables away in a safe or at a minimum, somewhere secure? At the very least store them out of sight and away from doors and windows.
- If you own firearms do you keep them trigger locked and in a locked cabinet or gun safe?
- If a theft does occur are your valuables marked for identification and any serial numbers recorded?

Do you have an emergency kit if you have to leave your home for a period of time?

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit-and-grab-and-go-bag>

If someone in your neighbourhood appears suspicious and you need police attendance or you have been a victim of a break in to your residence call the police at 911 right away.

Below you will find some excellent Canadian websites – with further detailed information on how to secure your home and prevent theft as much as possible.

- Government of Canada- Get Prepared  
[Is your home safe when you go on vacation? \(getprepared.gc.ca\)](https://getprepared.gc.ca)
- BC RCMP- Home Security Tips  
[BC RCMP - Home security tips \(rcmp-grc.gc.ca\)](https://rcmp-grc.gc.ca)
- Canada Safety Council  
[Keeping your Home Safe While Away – Canada Safety Council](https://www.safetycouncil.ca/keeping-your-home-safe-while-away)
- Age Safe Canada  
[Home Safety is ESSENTIAL! - Age Safe Canada](https://agesafe.ca/home-safety-is-essential)

- Block Watch Society of BC  
<https://blockwatch.com/>
- British Columbia Crime Prevention Association  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/publications/safe-community-be-safe-guide.pdf>
- Help Starts Here- If You Are a Victim of a Break and Enter  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/bc-criminal-justice-system/if-victim/publications/hsh-english-b-e.pdf>
- RCMP and Government of Canada  
[BC RCMP - Ageless Wisdom: Personal Safety \(rcmp-grc.gc.ca\)  
2022 - Seniors Guidebook to Safety and Security - ENG -PDF VERSION.pdf \(rcmp-grc.gc.ca\)](https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/2022-seniors-guidebook-to-safety-and-security-eng-pdf-version.pdf)

**If you would like further assistance to discuss safety and security of your residence, please contact Nelson Police Department Victim Services at 250-505-5657 or visit the website at [www.nelsonpolice.ca](http://www.nelsonpolice.ca)**