

## The Crime Prevention Triangle

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Three elements must be present for a crime to occur. The elements: **desire**, **ability**, and **opportunity** form a triangle. If you remove one of the elements, the triangle cannot be formed and the crime cannot occur.



You cannot eliminate a criminal's **desire** to commit a crime. You have no control over a criminal's **ability** to commit a crime.

You can, however, remove the criminal's **opportunity** to burglarize your home or vehicle by locking your doors and windows and securing your property out of view.

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**Do you want strangers walking through your home while you're in bed asleep?**

**How do you feel about someone going through your personal property and taking your valuables?**



**"Providing The Best"**

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Elmhurst Police  
Department



**"Providing The Best"**

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**Leaving Your Home or Vehicle Unlocked Puts You and Your Family at Risk!**

**Don't Provide Criminals with the Opportunity to Burglarize your Home or Vehicle**



## Residential Burglaries

In Elmhurst, burglars often times look for unlocked homes to commit their thefts. Burglarizing an unlocked home is much more appealing to criminals.

Entering an unlocked home takes little effort or ability. In addition, it causes much less noise than breaking a window or forcing open a door. It also provides the burglar with much less chance of being detected.



### Locking

your doors and windows may prevent you from becoming a victim.

Open overhead garage doors and unlocked service doors are also common points of entry for burglars. Keeping overhead garage doors in the down position and **locking** service doors makes your home and property less inviting to burglars.

You should keep your doors **locked** at all times. Burglars enter homes at all hours—even when victims are working in their yards.

## Vehicle Thefts

You often hear about a vehicle being stolen from a gas station or quick mart with a child inside. These incidents likely could have been prevented had the driver removed the child from the vehicle, taken the keys and **locked** the doors.



Technology has made it more difficult to steal a vehicle. Vehicles left unattended idling or with the keys inside are easy prey for thieves looking for temporary transportation or sought after vehicles.

## Vehicle Burglaries

In Elmhurst, burglars often times look for unlocked vehicles to commit their thefts. Burglarizing an unlocked vehicle is much more appealing to criminals.



Entering an unlocked vehicle takes little effort or ability. In addition, it causes much less noise than breaking a window or damaging a

lock. The burglar also has much less chance of being detected.

Valuables, such as GPS units, wallets, purses, cash, portable media players, and laptop computers, should be removed from the vehicle interior and safely secured out of sight.



**Locking** your doors and windows may prevent you from becoming a victim.

## Bicycle Thefts

Bicycle thefts increase in the summer months. Bicycles should be secured in a locked garage, shed, or residence when not in use. When away from home, a quality U-type lock should be used to secure your bicycle. Lock the frame and both wheels to a stationary object.

## Locker Burglaries

Health club and school lockers are often burglarized for cash, credit cards, jewelry, and portable media players. It is recommended you not leave valuables in a locker, but if you must, make sure the locker is secured with a quality lock.

**You can help yourself, your family and your neighbors:**

- 1. Always lock your vehicles, house, garage, bicycles and lockers.**
- 2. Help your police department:**

**Immediately call 9-1-1 to report suspicious people, vehicles or noises.**

