

# Advisory: An Open Garage = An Opportunity for Crime

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In the last several weeks, we have seen an increase in garage burglaries reported. Many of these cases are related to garage doors being left unsecured. An unattended, open garage leaves all of the property in the garage visible & easily accessible to passersby. Even if you just step away from your garage for a moment, burglars can easily grab a bike, tools, golf clubs or other valuables and disappear in just a few seconds. Sometimes they'll even rummage through a vehicle that is parked in an open garage.

With these things in mind, please remember to keep your garage doors (including pedestrian doors) closed & secured when you are not present.

Here are some additional tips for preventing garage burglaries:

- Install a deadbolt lock in all doors leading from your garage to your home or outside.
- If your garage door has a "remote lock" button on your wall pad, use it nightly or when you are away. This will disable any garage remote, including the one in your vehicle.
- If you cannot disable your remote, consider removing the garage door opener from your vehicle as it can be used to open your garage & possibly enter your home.
- Lock bikes and other valuables to something stationary within the garage.
- Consider improving the lighting on your property, criminals like to work in the dark.
- Use a padlock in the garage door's track ¼ inch above the roller when the door is in a closed position. This will prevent the door from opening in the event someone has a garage door opener with your door's frequency. You can also install a hasp and padlock to the interior of your garage door.
- Cover your garage windows with curtains or blinds to prevent burglar from seeing what you keep in your garage.
- Put your Neighborhood Watch to work. Make a strong commitment to knowing and watching out for each other.

As always, if you see suspicious activity, vehicles, or people, call the Newport Beach Police Department immediately at 949-644-3717.