



Durham Regional Police are warning Clarington residents about a number of trends related to residential break-ins.

Investigators say residents can protect themselves and avoid being targeted for a break-in by taking some precautions around their homes and vehicles:

- Avoid leaving out cardboard for recycling that clearly reveals you have made a large purchase (ie. X-Box, stereo system, television, laptop etc.)
- Leave your garage door closed whenever possible to keep expensive items like snow blowers, lawn mowers and power tools out of sight
- Avoid applying “family” decals to your vehicle that reveal how many children or pets you have. These decals can provide a lot of information to potential criminals
- Never use social media sites (ie. FaceBook, Twitter etc.) to announce you are leaving for vacation or planning to be away from home for any period of time
- Make sure your windows and doors are secured when you are away and if you do leave on vacation, have a neighbor or family member collect mail and newspapers
- Use timers on interior and exterior lights to give the appearance of occupancy in your home when you are not there

If you are the victim of a residential break and enter or notice any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, contact police immediately. Anonymous tips can be made to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [www.durhamregionalcristoppers.ca](http://www.durhamregionalcristoppers.ca) and tipsters may be eligible

## Tips to ward off residential thieves

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for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

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