

DETECTING BURGLARY

PRESENTED BY THE WINOOSKI POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following information may serve to deter suspects from successfully committing a burglary, or help limit loss should they gain access

HARDEN DOORS

The most common means of entry into a businesses is by the use of existing doorways, sometimes by bypassing or forcing locks – but most frequently by use of unlocked or open doors and windows. Ensure the use of solid doors whenever possible on exterior doorways and rooms that contain valuables. Hollow-core doors are easily bypassed or broken open. Upgrade to deadbolt locks wherever possible, or reinforce your existing locks by adding a deadbolt, or to the bottoms of doors. Deadbolts should extend well into solid doorjamb and frames. Installation below the handle allows you to reach the lock while staying low to the floor in case of a fire. The use of lock pry plates on exterior doors prevents the use of pry bars and other tools by covering the latch mechanism with a flat metal plate. The interior of the doors for especially high risk areas can be outfitted with an interior crossbar. These can be purchased, or more commonly fashioned by the

owner or operator. These are sturdy bars that slip into L-shaped brackets. The bar crosses both sides of the frame, and secures to the door.

HARDEN WINDOWS

The second most common entry point is by breaking glass. This can be reduced by simply increasing the strength of the glass, or removing the glass in favor of another material. Replacing a pane of standard single pane glass with a wire-reinforced pane, a shatterproof pane, or Plexi Glass maintains visibility of product while decreasing or removing the ability to break through. Likewise, placing a panel with either metal (such as stainless steel or expanded metal mesh) or heavy wood behind the panel of glass can serve the same purpose, but with a different aesthetic effect. Such surfaces can be decorated or used as additional advertising or signage space as well. Window locks can usually be increased in security from their current state. A trip to a local hardware store will oftentimes result in the discovery of a variety of do-it-yourself locks that can be installed on your windows to increase your security level. There are keyed locks, deadbolt locks, and even locking bars and grates.

DETERRENT FACTORS

Suspects target what they can see. Any side windows to businesses do not serve an advertising purpose. These windows can be treated with a spray-on or adhesive coating that results in a “frosted” effect, so that your valuables cannot be seen from the outside, however natural lighting can still filter in from the outside. By cutting back shrubs that would mask or conceal a potential thief, or replacing them with thorny shrubs (see our website) hiding places can be eliminated in a variety of ways. Installation and advertising the presence of alarms and surveillance systems are also highly recommended.

SAFES/LOCKBOXES

Consider installing a safe on your premises, or not leaving any cash on site when closed. Safes, if used, should be thick walled and heavily constructed. Above all, the safe should be **SOLIDLY** mounted to the floor, either in the basement or in the office with heavy bolts or other means. Some safes can even be connected in to your existing alarm system or fitted with GPS tracking devices.