

8. What to Do If You Notice Suspicious Activity

- Document and Report: If you see suspicious activity, document details like license plate numbers and descriptions of individuals, and report them to the police. Avoid confronting anyone directly. Recommended on taking photos/video if possible.
- Use Your Own Surveillance: Install security cameras around your property to monitor and record suspicious activity. This footage can be invaluable if a crime is attempted or committed.

9. Safety in Transit

- Secure Your Vehicle: When driving home after handling valuables, especially at night, lock your doors and stay alert for anyone suspicious around your vehicle.
- Vary Your Routine: Change your routes and times when traveling home from work, banks, or high-value locations to make it harder for criminals to follow and predict your movements.

10. What to Do if You're Followed

- Stay Calm: If you suspect you're being followed, don't panic. Drive to the nearest police station or busy public area and call 911.
- Don't Go Home: Avoid leading a potential criminal to your house. Instead, head to a safe location.
- If you notice suspicious activity around your neighborhood or believe you're being followed, contact your local police department immediately.

By staying vigilant, handling cash and valuables discreetly, and following these precautions, you can reduce the risk of becoming a target of a follow home burglary. Together, we can make our communities safer for everyone.

Taking proactive steps towards your safety can make a significant difference. Stay informed about the latest safety tips and engage with your community to foster a safer environment for everyone. Remember, your safety is a shared responsibility—let's work together to keep our community secure.

Stay vigilant, stay safe!



CITY OF TORRANCE POLICE DEPT.

3300 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, California 90503
Telephone: 310/328-3456



Protecting Your Home from Follow Home Residential Burglaries



City of
TORRANCE
California

STAY SAFE, STAY VIGILANT: PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FOLLOW HOME BURGLARIES

Criminals are employing more sophisticated methods, including following individuals from places where valuables are handled, such as banks, jewelry stores, and high-end retailers. By taking a few simple precautions, you can help protect yourself, your family, and your belongings from becoming a target. If you own a business with the daily functions on handling cash, be vigilant.

1. Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Always stay alert when leaving places where you withdraw cash, purchase expensive items, or visit jewelry stores. Criminals may watch for people leaving these locations.
- If you feel like someone is following you, avoid driving directly home. Head to a safe, well-lit area like a police station or a crowded public place.
- Avoid distractions, such as talking on your phone or wearing earphones, especially when handling valuable items.

2. Discreetly Handle Cash and Valuables

- **Withdrawing Cash:** When making cash withdrawals from ATMs or banks, do so discreetly. Be aware of anyone watching you and avoid counting large sums of money in public. Avoid using “Bank Money Bags” when depositing and/or withdrawing money.
- **Carrying Jewelry or Valuables:** Be mindful when purchasing or transporting expensive jewelry or other high-value items. Avoid showing them off in public places or at the store exit, where criminals may be watching.
- **Use Secure Routes:** After handling cash or valuables, vary your route home and avoid predictability to reduce the risk of being followed.

3. Secure Your Home

- **Doors & Windows:** Ensure all doors and windows have strong, reliable locks. Use deadbolts on all exterior doors.
- **Garage Security:** Keep garage doors closed when not in use, and consider installing security devices like hardened steel hasps and padlocks for extra protection.
- Be selective on where you keep your garage door opener “clicker” inside your vehicle (vehicle break-ins where suspects can easily find where you live).
- **Sliding Doors:** Place a wooden dowel or metal rod in the door tracks to prevent sliding glass doors from being forced open.

4. Install Security Systems

- **Alarms:** A professionally monitored alarm system can alert you and law enforcement to potential break-ins. Ensure it's equipped with sensors that detect unauthorized entry points. Hardwired systems are recommended.
- **Cameras:** Install security cameras at your front door, back door, and other vulnerable areas. Visible cameras can deter burglars.
- **Lighting:** Ensure your property is well-lit. Motion-activated floodlights can be a strong deterrent, particularly around entry points.

5. Don't Make Your Home an Easy Target

- **Keep Valuables Out of Sight:** Avoid leaving expensive items, such as electronics, jewelry, or cash, visible through windows.
- **Install & securing Safes** (bolted down to ground to deter suspects in removing).
- **Use Timers for Lights:** When away, use timers to turn lights and electronics on and off, creating the illusion that someone is home.

- **Keep Your Plans Private:** Avoid sharing your whereabouts or travel plans, especially on social media. Criminals may use this information to plan their break-ins.
- **Get to Know Your Neighbors:** Neighbors who watch out for each other can make a big difference in preventing crime. If you're going on vacation, ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your property.

6. Monitor Suspicious Activity Around Your Home and Business

- Criminals often monitor homes and businesses for patterns. Be aware of unusual behavior that could indicate you're being watched.
- **Unfamiliar Vehicles:** Pay attention to cars parked near your home or business for extended periods, especially if they seem out of place.
- **Strangers in the Area:** Be cautious of people loitering near your property, particularly those using their phones or cameras in ways that seem suspicious.

7. Criminal Use of Technology

- Criminals may use advanced technology to monitor your movements and identify the best times to strike:
- **Covert Cameras:** Small, hidden cameras may be used to track your comings and goings. Regularly inspect entrances, driveways, and other areas for strange devices.
- Regularly check for Wi-Fi equipment in neighbors front yards (trees/bushes/ivy).
- **Vehicle Tracking Devices:** Thieves may attach GPS trackers to your vehicle to monitor your movements and determine when you're away from home. Regularly check your vehicle for any unusual attachments, particularly around the wheel wells and under the car. Monitor Wi-Fi for unusual connections regarding tracking devices (home/vehicles).