



# CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Chief Kyle Wilson

Residents of Chesterfield,

There has been a sharp increase over the recent months in the amount of night time car burglaries and day time home burglaries in Chesterfield and the surrounding municipalities. The victims of these burglaries largely reported their vehicles or homes were unlocked when the burglary was committed. It appears rather than targeting a specific vehicle or house, the suspect will attempt to open several vehicles and remove items from the ones which are unlocked. While this is one of the most common crimes, it is fortunately the easiest to prevent.

In an effort to protect your property, the Chesterfield Township Police Department recommends that you take a proactive approach to preventing a burglary by adhering to the following recommendations:

For your vehicle:

- Always lock your vehicle
- If available, always park your car in a locked garage
- Do not leave valuable items visible. If possible, secure the items (and their docking stations) in your trunk or bring them with you. This includes GPS, iPod, cell phone, gym bags, briefcases, packages, and money
- Never leave mail in your vehicle. Should these items be taken, valuable personal or financial information could be compromised
- Copy serial numbers to all electronics. Should one of these items be stolen from you, it will allow law enforcement to return these items to you once they are recovered

For your home:

- Regardless of how "quiet" your neighborhood is, always lock your doors
- IMMEDIATELY report suspicious activity by calling 911
- Always be mindful of activity around the neighboring houses
- Have a security check of your house conducted. This is a free service provided by the Chesterfield Township Police Department to all of our residents. During this security check, our officers will identify potential security issues with your home and provide recommendations to remedy such issues.

Should you see a suspicious vehicle or a suspicious person in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to call the police and we will have an officer respond. One example of suspicious activity would include someone knocking on your door to see if anyone is home. If you are home, the person may say/ask something along the lines of, is John (or any other random name) home? And the homeowners response is generally there's no John that lives here. Then the person will apologize and leave to go to another house where no one is home. As simple as this sounds that activity should immediately be reported by calling 911. When reporting suspicious activity, try to obtain as much information as possible such as:

- Vehicle description (color, make, model)
- License plate (state and registration number)
- Clothing description (color and distinctive markings)
- Number of people in the area or in the vehicle
- If the vehicle leaves the area, report the direction of travel

Please keep in mind that the Chesterfield Township Police Department staffs a minimum of two officers, 24 hours a day 7 days a week. No suspicious activity is too minor to report; all calls will be investigated promptly and to the fullest extent.

If you will be away on vacation, please stop by the Chesterfield Township Police Department and fill out a Request to Check Premise or fill out the form online. While you are away, our Department will conduct periodic checks of your property until you return.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the station at (609) 291-0912

Respectfully,

Chief Kyle Wilson