



Cambridge Police Department

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Housebreak Facts

- Cambridgeport residents have experienced a recent increase in housebreaks or attempted housebreaks after patterns occurred in October/November 2014, January 2015 and in recent months.
- Housebreaks most commonly occur during the day time while victims are not home or while homeowners are away on vacation.
- During the week, the most common times are between 5:30-8 a.m. and 10-12 p.m. During the weekend, it is between 9-11:59 p.m.
- Suspects have often left by the time victims return home and call the police. Unknown suspects are typically the perpetrators.
- The most common methods of entry are forcing or prying open the front door, accessing open or unlocked windows or doors (e.g. consider access points such as fire escapes, outdoor staircases, air conditioning units), and cutting through screens in windows.
- Laptops, iPads, cameras, jewelry and cash are the most common items taken during housebreaks.

Request a FREE Residential Security Survey from the Cambridge Police Department, which provides a general assessment of the vulnerability of your residence.



For information, please call (617) 349-3236.

Housebreak Prevention Tips

- Try casing your own home. Attempt to gain access to your home when the doors and windows are locked and secure.
- ALWAYS lock your doors and windows. Doors should be made from strong wood or metal and should be locked with a deadbolt. Install guards on windows that prevent them from being raised more than a few inches.
- Leave a light on (perhaps on a timer) when you go away, even for the evening.
- Install motion sensor lights outside your home and out of reach so burglars cannot unscrew the light. Also, buy variable light timers to activate lights inside your home.
- NEVER prop open a door or let someone in behind you if you live in an apartment building. Likewise, DO NOT buzz in people that are not there to visit you.
- Stop newspaper and mail deliveries if you plan to be out of town for an extended period of time or ask a trustworthy neighbor to pick up your mail daily and check in on your house.
- Be vigilant. If you suspect suspicious activity around your home, your neighbors' homes, or in your neighborhood, please report it to the police immediately by calling **617-349-3300**. If an emergency, please dial **9-1-1**.



More Information

- Visit www.CambridgeMA.gov/AlertNetwork to sign up for crime alerts and tips.
- Visit www.CambridgePolice.org/CrimeMap for an interactive map showing crime in Cambridge.