



News Release

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AAA SAYS STOP BURGLAR BLITZ DURING SUMMER TRAVEL

AAA Offers Tips to Avoid Home Break-Ins While You're Away

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, (August 7, 2012) – As the weather warms, more people are hitting the roads, riding the rails or flying the friendly skies. However, as travelers are enjoying some summertime fun, burglars may be enjoying all the valuables they find inside the travelers' homes. AAA Tidewater Virginia offers tips to protect your home from unwanted intrusion.

The majority of burglaries occur during the peak vacation months of July and August, according to the Insurance Information Institute (III). The III notes that there are more than 2.15 million burglaries each year, more than 65 percent of those are of homes, and the average dollar loss per burglary is over \$1,800.

"Warmer weather is an attractive time to travel, but don't leave your home as an attractive target to burglars after you head out of town," said Georjeane Blumling, spokesperson for AAA Tidewater Virginia. "There are some simple steps that people can take to help minimize making their home a target and to secure it against any attempted break-ins."

Tips to Avoid Home Burglaries While Travelling

- **Have strong outside doors and windows.** Make sure your doors are solid hardwood or metal. Having a deadbolt lock is ideal. Special locks are available for sliding doors and windows.
- **Trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows.** Lots of trees and shrubs around entry points to your home can provide cover for burglars. Note: High fences may also have the same effect.
- **Install exterior lights & motion detectors.** Light can make a home less appealing to burglars.
- **Install a burglar alarm.** Ones that ring an outside service may be the most effective.
- **Make valuables hard to see from the outside.** Move computers, paintings, and other valuables away from windows and doors so they don't attract burglars.
- **Have post office pick up, forward, or hold your mail and packages.** Also, to avoid the impression no one is home, ask friends or family to pick-up fliers or newspapers.
- **Use automatic timers.** They can operate lights around the house at appropriate times. Consider connecting a radio to a timer and turning down the telephone ringer and answering machine.
- **Tell dependable neighbors when you plan to travel.** They can help watch over your home.

If you have questions about whether your AAA homeowners' policy covers losses due to burglary, check with your insurance agent. You can also go to www.aaa.com/insurance to find an agent and to get a quote.

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATWnews](https://twitter.com/AAATWnews).

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