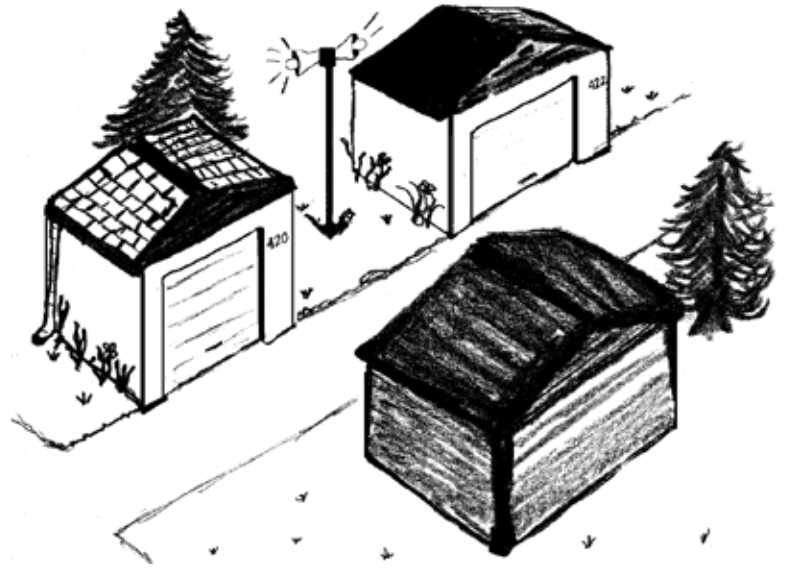




# Alley Safety

## TERRITORIALITY

A well-cared-for alley creates a feeling that people use the area. An uncared-for alley appears abandoned. Appearance can give the feeling of ownership and add to the comfort level of people entering the area.



### *Defining the space*

Fences, lawn and yard maintenance, and landscaping show ownership. Identifying intruders is much easier in a well-defined and cared-for space. Define your property in a way that allows you to greet and get to know your neighbors and keep an eye on their property.

### *Fences*

Fences provide both a physical and a psychological barrier to criminals. A high, solid fence can block your neighbor's view of your home and allow a burglar to work in secrecy. The Minneapolis Police Department recommends a chain link, lattice or other "see-through" type fence to keep sight lines open for you and your neighbors.



### *Landscaping*

Shrubs and hedges can also provide a border to your property and a barrier to the burglar. However, overgrown shrubs, hedges, and trees near sidewalks, windows, doors, and public-use areas can provide hiding places for criminals. They can also cast shadows or block illumination from lighting sources.

Shrubs, hedges, and bushes should be trimmed to 3 1/2 feet. If you prefer to keep them taller, you can thin or prune them to allow better sight lines. Plant thorny shrubs or bushes under windows, between garages, or in isolated hiding spots to deter criminals.



## LIGHTING

Residents have an important role in deterring crime by utilizing lighting on their property or by improving their lighting. Insufficient and/or uneven lighting can cast shadows or leave dark areas.

Regular incandescent lighting mounted on a pole or wall is adequate for most city homes. There are also other types of lighting that are more energy efficient and will illuminate a larger area. Photoelectric switches can be used on outdoor lights so they will come on automatically when it gets dark.

Motion-detector lights are an inexpensive deterrent for areas where constant lighting is unnecessary but would be beneficial when activity is occurring there. These and all lights should be hung high enough so they can't be easily broken. Consider light fixtures to reduce glare. For further lighting concerns consult a lighting professional.

Residents can contact your local electric company for information on a variety of affordable residential lighting improvement options. A light and pole can be put up on your block and neighbors can share the cost. (One household has to serve as the billing address.)

Your block may qualify for additional mid-block city street and alley lighting. In addition to the intersection light, every standard 600 feet block can have two mid-block lights approximately 200 feet apart. Alleys can have two mid-block lights at 1/3 points. Call the 311 (or 612-673-3000) to find out if your block qualifies for more street lights.

Report damaged or malfunctioning street lights to 311 (or 612-673-3000).



## GARAGE SECURITY

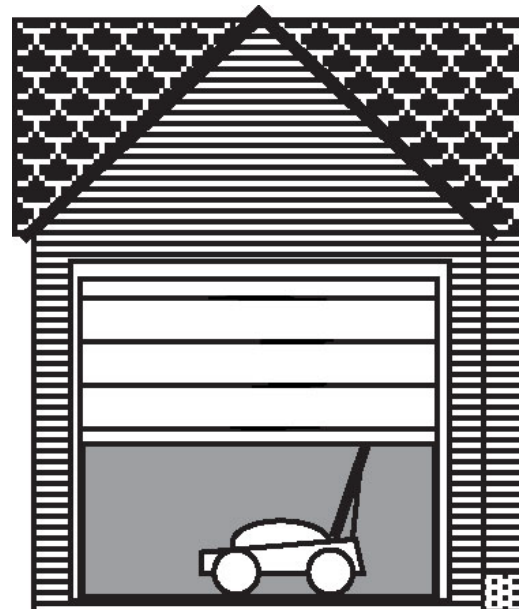
Garages can contain many valuable items such as lawn mowers, snowblowers, tools, and bikes in addition to cars. To lessen the chance of a burglary to your garage, the Minneapolis Police Department offers the following recommendations:

### *Service door*

Secure a service door as you would any door on your home. If the door is paneled or hollow-core, reinforce it. Use a deadbolt lock with at least a 1" throw, a solid metal free-spinning cylinder guard which is difficult to grip with pliers or a wrench, and no tie screws exposed to the outside.

If the door contains glass or is within 42" of a window, use a double-cylinder deadbolt lock or reinforce or cover the glass with a screen, grille, or high-impact-resistant polycarbonate material. Otherwise, a burglar can break the glass, reach inside, and turn the knob.

Cover any gap between the door and frame with a latch guard. Reattach, replace, or reinforce the door frame as necessary. Install a maximum-security strike plate that will reinforce the door frame. The strike plate should be attached with 3" or longer screws that extend into the stud behind the door frame. This will make it difficult for a burglar to rip the plate away from the frame.



## ***Overhead door***

Overhead doors often have locks that are easily defeated by force. Many detached garages with overhead doors don't have service doors, which creates a security problem. The only good form of security on such garages is an electric garage door opener. Treat the garage door opener as though it's your house key.

If your garage has a service door, you can secure your overhead door by installing a padlock 1/4" above a roller when the door is closed.

## ***Double doors***

Install a heavy-duty hasp and padlock made of case-hardened steel. The shackle should be at least 3/8" in diameter and have a locking mechanism on the heel and toe. (If it does, you will see a notch on both sides of the shackle when the padlock is unlocked.) File off any key number on the padlock, to reduce the possibility of unauthorized key duplication. (Record the key number elsewhere.)

## ***Windows***

Cover garage windows so burglars can't see what you keep in your garage (i.e. curtains, blinds, frosting, etc.). Keep windows locked. Options for securing garage windows include placing a grille or bars over them permanently. You can also nail, screw, or board them shut or replace it with glass block.

## ***Protecting and identifying your property***

Never leave your overhead garage door open, even when you are working in the garage. Close it at least halfway so passersby cannot see your valuables. Be sure to record the make, model and serial number of all valuables. See home inventory FAQ at

[www.ciwww.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mpd/documents/webcontent/convert\\_254355.pdf](http://www.ciwww.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mpd/documents/webcontent/convert_254355.pdf) and form at [www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mpd/documents/webcontent/convert\\_254178.xls](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mpd/documents/webcontent/convert_254178.xls).

Large items like snow blowers, lawn mowers, and bikes can be secured inside the garage by chaining or U-locking them together or to a bolt sunk into the floor.

Make sure your address/house numbers are prominently displayed on your garage to help police and other emergency vehicles find your home when necessary.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see [www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police\\_outreach\\_safe-teams](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams) to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm).



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737

Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700

Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500

Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800

Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.