



## Theft: a crime of opportunity

Theft or larceny is the most frequently reported crime in the City of Minneapolis. It is the act of taking property belonging to another with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property. Theft is when someone takes a bike, cell phone, gym bag, or any other item that is left unattended. Shoplifting and pick pocketing are also considered theft because items are taken without force. Other common examples of theft include taking items from motor vehicles, stealing motor vehicle parts and accessories, and taking money from coin-operated machines.

Theft is a different crime from **burglary** and **robbery**. Burglary is when someone enters or breaks into a structure (home, business, garage or other building) and illegally removes property from it. Robbery occurs when someone uses force or the threat of force to take something from someone.

### To prevent theft:

- **Do not leave valuables unattended or unsecured on your property, in your vehicle, or in public spaces.** This includes bicycles, laptops, purses, wallets, keys, and especially anything that may contain personal information.
- Keep valuables in your garage, house, or apartment, and lock your doors! This includes all garage, house, apartment and car doors.
- Do not carry excess cash and credit cards
- Practice CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). Consider use of space, proper delineation, land use, interior and exterior design, and lighting.
- If you have outdoor furniture, secure it with a lock or place it inside when you are not using it.
- Lock your bike to something stationary even if you are at home or just leaving it for a few minutes.
- Keep your property well-lit during evening hours.
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other. Form or revitalize a block club.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Call 911 to report any suspicious behavior.

**To increase the possibility that your items will be returned** if stolen, record the makes, models, serial numbers and descriptions and keep this information in a safe place. See the Home Inventory Form and Home Inventory FAQ flyer for more information at [www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/).

**Identity theft:** Guard your credit and debit card numbers by shredding billing statements and pre-approved credit offers. Keep your Social Security card and a record of your credit card numbers in a safe place such as a safety deposit box. Do not carry the PIN number for your credit cards in your billfold. If you are a victim of ID theft call 311 to report it. For further information about identity theft, you can call the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at 651-296-3353 or go to [www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Privacy/Default.asp](http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Privacy/Default.asp)

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.