## **PROTECT** YOURSELF FROM THEFT

When the weather heats up theft usually does, too. These tips could help you keep your stuff where it belongs - safe at home!

## Sports equipment Secure sporting goods inside your **Bicycles** Air conditioning units home, or keep them in heavy-duty, A thin bike chain or wheel lock locked bins inside a locked garage A favorite target of scrappers — many isn't a good theft deterrent. or shed. AC units have copper coils and other Some thieves will simply unbolt metal piping that can fetch a pretty a chained wheel and carry away penny. Install bright, motion-activated the rest of the bike. If you can't security lighting near your outdoor unit. take your bike inside, make sure you use heavy chain, threaded through both wheels and the frame, and a thick padlock to secure it to the rack. Unlocked sheds Pool pumps and garages Your pool area needs Stolen tools and lawn to be fenced off equipment are a and locked, make lucrative trade. sure it is Make sure your positioned in shed and garage an area covered doors are locked by bright, at all times motion-activated security lighting. Vehicles and items left in them Most vehicle-related thefts Vacant properties take place in under 20 and vacation homes seconds. Never leave loose items on the seats or dash; lock Again, a big target for metal them in the trunk, or better yet, scrappers or vandals. Keep vacant take them with you. If you have a garage at home doors and windows securely locked. home, use it. If you must park on the street, Put interior lights on staggered timers and install a loud alarm system with a visible, install motion-activated exterior lights. blinking dash light.

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