

# Resources

## Prince William County Police Department

**Crime Prevention Unit**  
**(703) 792-7270**

The Prince William County Police Crime Prevention Unit offers services and programs that may assist you in your recovery process. These free services include:

**Home Security Assessment** — At your request, police personnel will come to your home and make recommendations that can enhance your existing security.

**Neighborhood Watch** — If you do not live in a Neighborhood Watch, you may want to consider starting a program in your neighborhood to combat crime.

Contact the Crime Prevention Unit for additional information on any of these topics at (703) 792-7270.

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**Eastern District Station, (703) 792-7200**  
15948 Donald Curtis Drive, Woodbridge

**Central District Station, (703) 792-8555**  
5036 Davis Ford Road, Woodbridge

**Western District Station, (703) 792-5111**  
8900 Freedom Center Boulevard, Manassas

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**Commonwealth Attorney's Office**  
**Victim Witness Assistance Program**  
**(703) 792-8220**

This is a special division of the Commonwealth Attorney's Office that you may contact when an arrest is made. They are available to provide help to crime victims and to guide them through the criminal justice system.

Prince William County  
Police Department

Emergency  
**9-1-1**

Non-emergency  
**(703) 792-6500**



**REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS  
ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE**



# Residential Burglary



*A guide to help you recover in  
the aftermath of a burglary*



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
[www.pwcgov.org/police](http://www.pwcgov.org/police)

## The Investigation



A uniformed police officer has taken the offense report. Depending on the circumstances, the officer may have attempted to recover evidence, such as processing for latent fingerprints or canvassing the neighborhood for witnesses. This is what will happen next:

- A copy of the report will be placed on roll call for the patrol officers' review.
- The Public Information Officer will provide the hundred block address and some details of the offense to the local media (but not your name or exact address).
- The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) supervisor will designate the case as active or inactive, based on available evidence and solvability.
- Evidence will be held for investigative purposes. Recovered fingerprints can only be identified by our specialist if the burglar has been fingerprinted in the past. This is not usually the case with juveniles.
- Recovered stolen property may be marked for release from the police evidence room, unless needed for the investigation.

## Case Number

The case number the officer provided you is the number used to identify a specific incident in our records management system. Be sure to reference this number when seeking or providing any information about your case.

## Supplemental Information

If you have already filed a report with the Prince William County Police Department and wish to add supplemental information (i.e. additional items that were stolen) you may do so online. Visit [www.pwcgov.org/policereport](http://www.pwcgov.org/policereport) to learn more about this feature and to begin submitting your online report.

You may still file your report via telephone by calling (703) 792-6500 and requesting that a Tele-Serv Operator call you.

**Save Time—Report Online**

## Active Cases

This designation is reserved for cases that have leads to be followed and a possibility of solvability. A lead would include:

- The name of a suspect, or a vehicle tag number.
- An identifiable fingerprint.
- A distinctive method of operation that ties it to other existing cases.

An active case will be assigned to a detective who will be in contact with you.

## Inactive Cases

Your case is important to us, but without active leads it will be designated as "inactive." If a lead develops through other investigations, you will be contacted by the detective handling your case. The fact is, a small number of burglars commit a high percentage of burglaries. Aggressive follow up of "active leads" is the best way for us to prevent further crimes in your area and often results in solving many burglary cases at one time.



## Emotional Impacts

You can expect to have a wide range of emotional impacts as a result of this experience:

- **Shock and Disbelief.** It will be difficult to comprehend that an intruder was able to make entry into your home.
- **Disorientation.** It may take some time for you to get back into your normal routine.
- **Lack of Control.** Listing stolen property, filling out insurance forms and realizing that your property may not be recovered will all contribute to a feeling of helplessness.
- **Fear.** You will have lost faith in the fact that you are secure in your home and it will take time for you to re-establish that security. This is particularly true for children, who may have difficulty sleeping and may need a lot of reassurance.
- **Anger.** This is often the strongest and most long term emotion felt by burglary victims.

## Recovery

Reporting the crime to the police begins the recovery process, you can also:

- For security and emotional reasons, it's important you have damage repaired as soon as possible. Then put your home back in order to help restore a sense of normalcy.
- Shock, anger, denial and sadness are just a few of the common emotions burglary victims experience. Coming to terms with these feelings is a big step forward in the healing process, whether that involves talking to friends, meeting with clergy members, holding family chats or even seeking professional help.
- Take reasonable security measures to make your home more burglary resistant.

## Incorporate Security into your Property

- Cut back trees and bushes around your property to increase visibility and remove potential hiding places for burglars.
- Install motion activated lights and make use of timers when you are not at home.
- Keep valuables out of sight. Burglars look for items that are easy to spot, easy to conceal and easy to carry. The harder something is to find, the less likely it will be taken.
- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when your home. This includes sheds, garages and vehicles.
- Consider installing a home alarm.
- Do not leave spare keys hidden outside; leave them with a trusted neighbor, friend or relative.
- Avoid posting on Social Media posts that indicate you are not at home.

For more information on how to make your home more secure contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (703) 792-7270.

