



## Bloomfield Township Police Department

4200 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Main Dispatch (248) 433 – 7755 **EMERGENCY ONLY 9-1-1**

Visit us online at [WWW.BloomfieldTwp.org](http://WWW.BloomfieldTwp.org)

### Neighborhood Safety Tips

- Keep your doors and windows closed and locked whenever possible.
  - Have deadbolt locks installed on each entry door. Each lock should have a 1" bolt. If possible, install **ANSI**® Grade 1 locks. This is the highest security rating.
  - Have motion-sensing floodlights installed on all four sides of your home.
  - Light fixtures should be installed near each entrance of your home, out of arms reach.
  - Landscaping should be trimmed back to eliminate hiding spots for would-be burglars. No landscaping should be higher than 36", or windowsill height, whichever is lower.
  - All screws securing strike plates and hinges in doorframes should be 2 ½" to 3" in length.
  - Purchase a professionally installed alarm system for your home. Get at least 3 estimates, asking each company how long they've been in business. Make sure that all alarm equipment is U.L.® certified.
  - Purchase a burglar-resistant safe for the valuables in your home; it should either weigh at least 750 lbs, or be mounted to the wall / floor of your home to prevent its removal.
  - Always keep your garage door down. It just takes a moment for a thief to steal something out of it!
  - Remove all valuables from your car when you park it, (**including the garage door opener**), if you park your car in the driveway, road, or any public place.
  - Don't park your car in the road overnight, if at all possible. **Park your car in the garage whenever possible.** This will reduce the probability of a number crimes occurring to your car.
  - Beware of 'contractors' going door-to-door soliciting business; very often they are frauds.
  - Never give personal information to anyone you do not know and trust (name, social security number, date of birth). Beware of anyone calling or e-mailing you claiming to be a bank, bank examiner, or government official requesting your personal information (Social Security number, etc.). All of them are frauds. Your bank and many government entities already have this information. Also, neither your bank, nor any government entity will ever call you on the phone requesting that you assist in an investigation. Again, this is also a con game.
  - Never throw out important papers with personal information, account numbers, etc. Shred them, instead.
  - Don't let any 'utility' worker into your home if you have not reported any kind of trouble to that utility OR they do not possess company identification, a marked company vehicle, or not wearing a company uniform. When in doubt, refuse entry, and then call the police immediately.
  - If you receive a solicitation for a good or service that seems too good to be true, IT PROBABLY IS! Beware of 'limited time offers' or any other high-pressure sales tactic.
  - Be cautious of 'landscaping' or 'snow removal' companies that come to your door with a 'special offer' or asking you to sign a contract and prepay for services. If you have a need for a contractor, ask your neighbors who they use and their experiences with that company.
  - Have a peephole installed in your entry door that has a 180° field of view.
  - Be a good nosy neighbor! Call the police if you see something abnormal / suspicious!
  - Purchase and use semi-random timers for the lights in your home when you are absent.
  - When going on vacation, have your mail forwarded to a friend or neighbor's address. You can also have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail or newspapers.
  - If your home is to be vacant for a few days or more, have your phone calls forwarded to the number where you will be. This way, anyone that calls your house checking to see if you are home will not always get an answering machine, but a real person.
  - If not already installed, purchase at least two non-cordless phones for your home (for upstairs and downstairs). In case of power failure, a cordless phone will be useless. However, an 'old-fashioned' phone (remember the ones with the cords?) will allow you access to land phone lines.
  - Consider upgrading all of your family's wireless phones with GPS enabled phones! GPS will help us to locate you should you dial 9-1-1 from your cell phone.
  - Beware of replacing your conventional landline phone service with VOIP (Voice Over Internet, Vonage, etc.) Dialing 9-1-1 through some VOIP services may not provide us with your address and phone number, both critical pieces of information in an emergency.
  - Before leaving your home for a trip, call the Bloomfield Township Police Department at 248-433-7755. Give us your date of departure and return. Call load permitting, we will adjust our patrol activities to afford your neighborhood extra patrol. You may also download the House Check form from [WWW.BloomfieldTwp.Org/Services/Police](http://WWW.BloomfieldTwp.Org/Services/Police).
  - **YOU** know your neighborhood better than anybody! If you see anything that doesn't look quite right, call us! You are never bothering us by asking that we investigate something that looks suspicious to you. We would rather verify that something you saw was not a crime, than have you ignore or dismiss a real crime in progress!
- Much of crime prevention is **USING WHAT YOU HAVE!** A door standing open or a lock that is not used are useless! Similarly, an alarm system that isn't turned on might as well not even exist!

These crime prevention tips are not guaranteed to keep you from being a victim of a crime, nor can every eventuality be anticipated. However, based upon the experience of the Bloomfield Township Police Department, these tips can help to increase your security.

Bloomfield Township residents can have a **FREE** security assessment done on their home. Call **Officer Matejcik** at **248-433-7724** to schedule an appointment.

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**Leo Savoie**, Township Supervisor

**Geof Gaudard**, Chief of Police