



Thanks PINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007



Building or Remodeling This Spring?



Here are ten tips from the California Contractors State License Board to make sure your contractor measures up:

- Hire only licensed contractors.
- Check contractor's license number at 800-321-2752 or www.cslb.gov.
- Get three references, review past work
- Get at least three bids.
- Get a written contract and don't sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
- Pay 10% down, or \$1,000, whichever is less.
- Don't let payments get ahead of work. Keep records of payments
- Don't make final payment until you're satisfied with the job.
- Don't pay cash.
- Keep a file of all papers relating to your project.



Home Protection

In recent years, more than 6.5 million burglaries are estimated to have occurred nationwide. This is the equivalent to one out of every 12 households. One recent nationwide study disclosed that reported losses amount to over 1.5 billion dollars a year, an average of \$526 per burglary.

Unfortunately, burglaries are occurring in Pinole all too often as well. How can you minimize the risks? Below are some home security techniques.

- ❖ Landscaping: Prune large trees near the house, especially limbs that may provide easy access to the second story. Keep shrubbery trimmed so it never blocks the view to or from any door or window.
- ❖ Locks: It is useless to spend good money on inferior locks that can be opened quickly by a novice burglar using simple tools. A properly constructed lock will be a "pin tumbler" and have at least 5 pins within it mechanism. Every exterior door should have a deadbolt lock for additional security. All deadbolts should have a bolt that extends at least one inch when in the locked position.
- ❖ Lighting: Intruders prefer darkness. The rear, side and front areas of your home should be well lighted.
- ❖ Gates and Fences: Equip all gates with good locks and use them.
- ❖ Louver Windows: Consider replacing these. They are a burglar's delight!



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Pinole Police Department Community Videos Online



Pinole Police Department's Crime Prevention unit is currently making videos for the community, and they are being shown on the local cable channel. We have also posted them on the City of Pinole website. Log on to the website www.ci.pinole.ca.us and then click on "New Feature – Pinole WebVideo On-Demand," then click on "Pinole WebVideo On-Demand: Crime Prevention." You can also view our newsletters there.



CHILDCARE BASICS

Important Information for Young People looking for work caring for children –

Caring for young children is one of the biggest responsibilities you'll ever have. You must protect yourself as well as the children.

Getting the Job - Know your employer. Baby-sit only for people you or your parents know, or for whom you have a personal reference. Answering newspaper ads may not be safe. Be sure to find out from your employers when they expect to be home. Be sure they know how much you charge before you begin work as well as when you must be home. Leave the name, address and phone number of where you'll be babysitting with your parents, and tell them what time your employers expect to be home.

On the Job: Know how to work the door and window locks in the home, and use them. Leave at least one outside light on. If the telephone rings while you're babysitting, don't tell the caller that you are alone and don't open the door to strangers. When you are out with the children, don't talk to strangers. If you suspect you're being followed at any time, go to a nearby home, store, or gas station and call the police.

In an Emergency – If you suspect a fire, get the children and yourself out. Go to a neighbor's house and call 911. In any kind of emergency, stay calm. The most important **thing** to remember is that young children won't panic if you don't.

This Spring in History

1981 - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of Columbia with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. Columbia spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

1961 – President Kennedy established the Peace Corps, sending volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

1961 - Chevrolet puts the legendary "409" big block engine into a passenger car. It generated 360 horsepower and inspired a Beach Boys song.

