



Operation Identification

Crime Prevention Program City of Woodinville

Operation Identification is a citizens' burglary prevention program for use in homes and businesses. The Operation Identification program involves marking certain valuable property with your Washington State Identifier number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. In communities where it has been properly implemented, **Operation Identification** has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries and theft.

Operation Identification Is Easy and Worth the Time!

Operation Identification has 2 steps. 1) Mark your valuable property with your driver's license or tax identification number.

Mark your valuables with your Washington State Driver's License Number preceded by "WA" and ending "DL" of your Washington State Identification Number preceded by "WA" and ending with "ID". Businesses can use their Washington State Tax Number preceded by "WA" and ending in "TX".

If stolen, your property can then be easily traced and identified as yours. **Do not use your Social Security Number.** Do not engrave valuables such as heirlooms, paintings, antiques, silver, china, or items that you will be selling for profit.

STEP 2: Display the Washington State **Operation Identification** decal on or near your perimeter doors and vulnerable windows. This warns would-be burglars that your property is marked. These decals are known to deter burglars from entering your neighborhood, home or business.

Examples of Marking Property

State Abbreviation +
Driver's License + TYPE

Driver's License:
WA-DDE**JR563PN-DL

Tax ID Number (State Dept.
Revenue):
WA-DDE**JR563PN-ID

Do not use your Social Security Number

Tips for Property Engraving, Inventory & Insurance

Purchase an electric engraving tool or contact the City's Block Watch Coordinator to make arrangements to borrow one. The number should be engraved on an area that cannot be easily dismantled or seen with the public eye, and which is easily seen.

After you have engraved your property, contact City's Block Watch Coordinator to obtain Operation

What to do with your valuables:

- ◆ Mark (engrave)
- ◆ Inventory (record)
- ◆ Photograph (videotape)
- ◆ Insure

Identification stickers/decals. By advertising your participation in **Operation Identification**, you are announcing that your valuable property has been marked and will be difficult for a burglar to re-sell.

If you sell your engraved items, etch one line through your Driver's License Number so that it is still readable, initial it and give the buyer a bill of sale describing the property.

For items you cannot engrave, you may want to consider purchasing an invisible marking pen from a stationary store. Although the invisible marking pen may be no detent from the burglar taking the item, it can greatly add to identification of items recovered. You should remember though that the ink can be washed off and will dissipate within three years.

It is further recommended that you supplement this inventory with photographs. Photograph valuable items that are inappropriate for marking, such as works of art, antiques, china, silver, furs, and similar items. Then photograph or videotape each room, cupboard, closet (don't forget the garage and vehicles) in a way that will show all furnishings and accessories.

Inventory

While marking your property, make a list of all your valuables (Sample form attached). List the brand, model, serial number and the date purchased, along with the value. Store a duplicate copy of your inventory off-site; away from your home. Ask your insurance agent to keep it in a safe place. Should you suffer a major loss, this detailed listing will be vital because your insurance agent will require the best possible documentation to verify your claim. The inventory will also be of great help to police in their attempts to recover your stolen property and return it to its rightful owner if recovered.

Consider Insurance: It's Worth the Piece of Mind

Insurance is recommended for everyone. Replacement value insurance is also important to obtain, since it will reimburse you for the current cost for the item rather than a depreciation value. A television set that you purchased for \$500 three years ago may only be worth \$100 now; however, with the replacement value clause, your insurance company will give you the money to buy a new set. A caution to renters: Landlords only have insurance to cover their building, not your personal property. Check with your insurance agent about renter's insurance. You may be surprised how reasonably it may be obtained.

Operation Identification is a powerful deterrent to burglary. To learn more about crime prevention programs for your home or business, contact

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PROPERTY INVENTORY RECORD

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY SHOULD INCLUDE NAME OF ITEM, MAKE, MODEL, SERIAL NUMBER, VALUE, & PURCHASE DATE.

- WHAT TO INVENTORY:**
- ◆ Electronics
 - ◆ Automobiles/Vehicles
 - ◆ Tools
 - ◆ Sports Equipment
 - ◆ Valuables without serial numbers

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