

Tips in Motion

Theft & Selling Your Home

When you place your home on the market, you give up a large measure of your privacy. You become more vulnerable to various types of theft. By being proactive, you can protect your possessions and identity substantially. Ninety-nine percent of home buyers are honest and trustworthy individuals. It is that 1% that can potentially cost you time, money and your good credit rating.

Thieves and con artists are out there. Stolen property reports made to authorities vary from small items to large items such as a full-length fur coat (in broad daylight). A con artist keeps you busy while his partner helps him or herself to your belongings.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, victims who reported identity theft last year totaled 245,881. That's only 40% of all victims.

You have asked for some ideas on what you can do in a home selling situation. Here are some suggestions. Before showing your house, look at the following items and address all areas that apply to your situation:

- Cash, jewelry, heirlooms and other expensive items decorating your home should either be placed in a secure home safe, a locking file cabinet hidden in the back of a closet, packed to move or taken offsite.
- Laptops, PDAs and other electronic devices that may hold passwords and personal data are easy targets for thieves. Lock them up or remove them from your home while showing.
- Your home computer may have password, bill-paying, investment or other confidential information on its hard drive. You may even run a home-based business from this same computer. All this information is at risk. Turn off, unplug or password protect your screen. Remove those post-its or your "handy list of passwords" you keep by your computer.
- Credit cards, credit card bills, and any other paperwork that show social security numbers or account balances should be locked away as well.
- Desks are easy targets also. Leave nothing of importance on the top of your desk or in the drawers. Remove temptation.
- Tools can easily disappear. Put those under lock, pack them away if you won't need them for a while or remove them from the premises.

The information and tips listed above are not meant to scare you, only to make you aware of your surroundings. Knowledge is power. You now know what needs to be done to better protect your home. GET IT DONE!



3948 Browning Place, Ste. 332
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-781-4887
homesinmotion@bellsouth.net