

# Rethinking the word “valuables”

**Not every thief is after traditional valuables.** Some are after materials that can be sold to scrappers or recyclers for quick cash. Some want moderately expensive items that can be sold online before an owner realizes they're gone.

Here are a few of the soft targets for which thieves and vandals often look:



## Air conditioning units

A favorite target of scrappers — many AC units have copper coils and other metal piping that can fetch a pretty penny. Install bright, motion-activated security lighting near your outdoor unit.



## Sports equipment

Secure sporting goods inside your home, or keep them in heavy-duty, locked bins inside a locked garage or shed.



## Pool pumps

Your pool area needs to be fenced off and locked. If you can't remove your pool pump and store it inside during the cold months, make sure it is positioned in an area covered by bright, motion-activated security lighting.



## Bicycles

A thin bike chain or wheel lock isn't a good theft deterrent. Some thieves will simply unbolt a chained wheel and carry away the rest of the bike. If you can't take your bike inside, make sure you use heavy chains — threaded through both wheels and the frame — and a thick padlock to secure it to the rack.



## Vacant properties and vacation homes

Again, a big target for metal scrappers or vandals. Keep vacant home doors and windows securely locked. Put interior lights on staggered timers and install motion-activated exterior lights.



## Vehicles and items left in them

Most vehicle-related thefts take place in under 20 seconds. Never leave loose items on the seats or dash; lock them in the trunk, or better yet, take them with you. If you have a garage at home, use it. If you must park on the street, install a loud alarm system with a visible, blinking dash light.



## Unlocked sheds and garages

Stolen tools and lawn equipment are a lucrative trade. Make sure your shed and garage doors are locked at all times.



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09663-SOFT-201603

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