Concerning Activity Near Your Home: What to Do

An unfamiliar person or parked car can have an ordinary explanation. Focus on what happened, such as someone trying a locked handle. You can ask for help without deciding why the person was there.

Crime in progress or danger	Move to a safe place and call 911.
No current emergency	Note facts safely and contact the local non-emergency police line.
Signs of a break-in	Stay outside. Contact police; call 911 if someone may still be inside.

If it is happening now

- ☐ If someone is trying to force entry, a crime is in progress or anyone is in immediate danger, call 911 from a safe place. Give your location first.
- ☐ Keep your distance. Stay inside if safe, or move somewhere safe. Avoid confronting or following anyone, including to get a photo or licence plate.

If the person has left

- ☐ From a safe place, note the date, time, location and what you personally saw or heard. Describe actions, such as someone turning a locked handle, rather than guessing at a motive.
- ☐ If your camera already captured the event, save the original clip and note any difference between its clock and yours. Share it privately with police if requested.
- ☐ For a non-emergency in Toronto, call Toronto Police at 416-808-2222. Elsewhere in the GTA, use your local police service’s non-emergency line.

If you return to signs of a break-in

- ☐ Stay outside, go somewhere safe and contact police. Leave the scene undisturbed. If someone may still be inside or there is immediate danger, call 911.

My factual observation record

Complete this only when you are safe. Record what you already observed; do not approach or follow anyone to fill a gap.

Detail	What I know
Date, time and location	
Actions I saw or heard	
Camera clip and clock difference	
Police report number or next step	

An unknown detail can stay unknown. Keep original recordings and share them privately with police if requested.

What I still need to tell police

Next step and contact details

Sources and further reading

Toronto Police Service: Break and enter prevention

Toronto Police Service: Non-emergency reporting

Toronto Police Service: Apartment and condo security

Halton Regional Police: Safety during and after an incident