



The Milford Police Department introduces the Operation Identification Program, a citizen's burglary prevention strategy.

Operation Identification Program

Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program for use in homes and businesses. Marking your property is one of the best crime prevention strategies. The Operation ID program involves marking property with an identifying number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. It also provides police with a way to identify property should it be stolen and recovered.

Marked property is harder to be disposed of and illegal possession can result in the arrest of the thief. Recovered property that is marked can also be returned to the rightful owner.

Mark Your Property:

If your property already has a serial number, great! If not, mark your property with your State ID and Driver's License number with a prefix of the issuing state (Example CT XXXXXXXXX).

If your property cannot be marked, such as most valuable jewelry, then take photographs of the property so that in the event the property is stolen, the pictures can be used to help identify the property. Jewelry should be photographed with an ID card and ruler next to it to show ownership and size.

Electric engravers can be purchased at hardware stores and large department stores in the "tools" section or can be found online for as little as \$12.

Where to mark your property:

Using an engraving tool, your "mark" should be plainly visible to anyone examining your property, such as an officer, dealing with recovered items. Thieves often remove manufacturer's serial numbers or etch over your engraved mark. This will be apparent to an examining officer. For additional protection, engrave the item a second time in a more obscure spot, if possible.

Engines and body parts of power-driven equipment, such as riding mowers and snowmobiles, are frequently swapped to reduce the risk of identification. Mark both the engine and frame.

These items listed below are the most commonly items stolen from homes, cars and businesses:

- Catalytic Converters
- Telephones/Cellphones
- Bicycles
- Video and Digital Cameras

- Car Audio Systems
- Computer Equipment
- Golf Clubs
- Mag Wheels
- Musical Instruments
- Stereo Equipment
- Televisions
- Power Tools
- Fishing rods, reels
- Guns
- Kitchen appliances
- Lawn mowers

Home Inventory:

Fill out the Home Inventory Checklist with your valuables and keep a copy of the list in a safe place. It is also a good idea to take photos of all your valuable items and keep the pictures along with your list of marked items. If you should become a burglary victim, you will be able to quickly describe the stolen property from the list. This will be of great help to the police in their attempts to recover stolen property and make an arrest.

Display the Operation ID sticker:

Display a sticker that tells potential burglars that your property is marked. The sticker discourages break-ins because it gives notice to a potential thief that your property will be hard for them to dispose of and can be tracked back to you. If the burglar is caught with it in his / her possession, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen property.

Reporting:

When reporting a loss or theft, be sure to mention that the belongings were marked with your driver's license number or state ID.

Describe where the markings are located on each item.

Enroll in the Program:

Download the Home Inventory Checklist here:

<https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/police-department/news/operation-id>

Contact the Milford Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit at (203) 874-2366 to get your Operation Identification sticker.

