

Operation Identification

REDUCING THE RISK OF THEFT

A thief's greatest risk is being "caught in the act," the second greatest risk is being caught with the evidence. Because mass-produced assembly line appliances and products look identical, the police have no way of identifying them as stolen goods, leave little grounds for incrimination. If an item has been inscribed with a driver's license number, the information can be entered into a computer and the owner can be identified. This knowledge alone may act as a deterrent to a potential thief.

MARKET VALUE

Many stolen goods are re-sold for cash. Items that can be traced back to their original owners bring a lower black market price, making the thief's efforts less rewarding. "Clean," or unmarked, goods are always preferred by burglars.

A WARNING TO BURGLARS

The Operation Identification stickers on windows and doors tell a burglar that you're determined to protect your belongings.



**SECURITY
SERVICES**

If you've taken the time to mark your valuables, a burglar can assume that you have taken other security measures as well. To the burglar, this means increased risk.

HOW TO JOIN

Your local law enforcement agency can provide you with electronic inscribers, window stickers, registration cards, and instructions. Inscribers and scribers can also be purchased at most hardware stores.

WHAT TO MARK

All items that might be attractive to a thief should be marked. Smaller items such as watches and photographic equipment can be neatly engraved by a jeweler without detracting from the cosmetic value.

WHERE TO MARK

It's best to mark your belongings in a prominent place where the marking will be both readily visible and difficult to cover or remove without the attempt being obvious.

Stereo components, television sets, radios, and other electronic equipment can be prominently marked on the back of the chassis or case.

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.

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KEEP AN INVENTORY

Make a record of your belongings including descriptions, serial numbers, and location of Operation Identification markings.

IN CASE OF LOSS OR THEFT

Every year, millions of dollars worth of recovered lost or stolen property is auctioned off by law enforcement agencies across the country. The problem: lack of identification.

INVENTORY		
ITEM DESCRIPTION	SERIAL NUMBER	LOCATION OF STICKERS OR MARKINGS
Portable Radio	M-2311572	Back at Bottom
Sony 27" Color TV	SY-456778-A	Bottom Left
Minolta Camera	56-34592-4A	Back Bottom
Toro Lawn Mower	T4567-0847593	Engine/Frame

When unmarked stolen property is recovered outside the area in which the theft occurred, the chance of having it traced back to the owner is extremely small. Operation Identification allows state and national law enforcement computer networks to trace these goods in a matter of seconds.

When reporting a loss or theft, be sure to mention that your belongings were marked with your driver's license number. Describe where the markings are located on each item.

Inscribing your driver's license number on your belongings is an advertisement that the goods are stolen. By subscribing to Operation Identification, you can cripple a thief's opportunity to get away without incriminating evidence.



- Residential Safeguard Series**
- ABC's of Crime Prevention
 - Babysitter's Guide to Safety
 - Boat & Marina Security
 - Fire Safety at Home
 - Guide to Poison Prevention
 - How Secure is Your Home
 - How to Prevent Auto Theft
 - Operation Identification
 - Safety Tips for Senior Citizens
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 - Vacation Procedures

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