Operation Identification

What is Operation Identification?
Operation Identification is part of the New Jersey Crime Watch program designed to prevent burglary. Here's how it works.

You engrave your New Jersey Drivers/Operators License Number onto valuables such as stereos, cameras, TV sets, CB radios. Then, you place a small Operation I.D. sticker on exterior doors and windows warning housebreakers that all valuables on the premises are marked for easy identification.

Everyone is urged to participate. The program is designed to help protect your business as well as your home.

How does the Program Prevent Burglaries?
Law enforcement officers know that the average burglar is an opportunist. In most cases, he doesn't care whether he breaks into your residence or a neighbor's. He just wants to get in fast and steal what he can sell easily for cash.

Operation I.D. warns the thief to stay away. Burglars know that if they're caught with marked merchandise it's solid evidence against them. Fences don't like to handle marked items either. So chances are, the burglar will leave your residence alone and head for easier pickings.

In addition, Operation I.D. helps you recover your property if it is lost or stolen.

How do you Join Operation Identification?
1. Contact your local law enforcement agency and they will loan you free of charge an electric engraving device. They will also provide Operation I.D. stickers.

2. Engrave your valuables with the letters "NJ" followed by the New Jersey Operators Number which appears on your drivers license.

Prevention is Everyone's Business
3. Place the stickers on exterior doors and windows.

4. Record the model and serial numbers of valuable items, including credit cards, and keep the records in a safe place. This helps when notifying your insurance company or describing to police what was lost if a burglary does occur.

**Which Items Should You Engrave**
The best rule of thumb is this: Mark anything of value that a burglar (or two) could cart away. Use this checklist.

**Home & Business**
- Bicycles
- Binoculars
- Calculators
- Cameras
- Clocks
- Hand Tools
- Kitchen Appliances
- Musical Instruments
- Power Mowers
- Power Tools
- Radios
- CD Players
- Recreation Equipment
- Stereos
- Tape Decks
- Television
- Computers

**Vehicle**
- AM/FM Radios
- CB Radios
- Speakers
- Tape Decks

**Where should they be engraved?**
Part of Operation I.D.'s objectives are to warn burglars away. So don't try to hide the fact that an item has been engraved. Mark items as conspicuously as possible without defacing them.

Obviously, some valuables such as jewelry, antiques and silverware cannot be marked without reducing their value. A color photograph is usually sufficient evidence to prove ownership, although it does not enable police to trace an item if stolen.

**Using the Engraver**
The electric engraver your police will loan you is easy and safe to operate.

**Here are some helpful tips:**
1. Before marking valuables, get the "feel" of the engraver by writing your name a few times on a piece of scrap material. Hold the engraver as you would a pencil, with your fingertips touching the plastic above the point. There is no need to press down on the engraver. Just move your hand slowly and evenly, allowing the vibrating point to do the work.

2. When marking on glass, ceramic and wood, hold the point perpendicular (vertically) to the material to prevent chipping or splintering.

3. The knob on the end of the engraver controls the depth of the cut, and, therefore, the width of the line being marked. Turning the knob counterclockwise will lengthen the stroke and widen the mark.

**Remember, many victims of crime once said, "It can't happen to me."**