



# Operation Identification



Operation Identification is designed to discourage theft. By engraving your driver's license number with state abbreviation on your property, and displaying a decal on your door stating all valuables are marked, you will alert anyone intending to enter your room, office, or home. This will make them more reluctant to take marked items. It is **strongly encouraged** that you not engrave your social security number on property any longer. Also, record your serial numbers and keep them in a location that you can access if you become a victim.

Stolen goods are more difficult for thieves to sell when they have been marked and can be identified. It also assists the police in identifying stolen property. Stolen items of value are entered into local police computer systems and/or the National Crime Information Center, making information available to all police agencies.

## **Reasons for Engraving Your Property**

When you engrave your property you are increasing your chances of having the property recovered if it is stolen.

Currently, statistics show that approximately 88% to 92% of recovered stolen property cannot be returned to the rightful owner. When a police department cannot prove ownership of recovered property, the property is held for a period of time, and then sold at a police auction.

## **How Operation ID Works**

1. Engrave or stencil your driver's license or State Identification number preceded by your state abbreviation. Example: OH123456
2. Engrave or stencil items in an obvious place so it can be seen at a quick glance by the recovering officer. For further protection, engrave a second hidden number.
3. Keep an inventory record of all your valuables: i.e., make, model, serial numbers, and description as well as location(s) engraved or stenciled. Make a copy of this record and store both in separate, safe areas.
4. Marked items will also assist you in retrieving loaned, borrowed or misplaced items if ownership questions arise.

## **A Few Helpful Hints...**

1. If you feel the value of your property would be severely reduced if it were engraved, take photographs or video tapes instead. File these photographs and tapes along with a description of the item(s), noting all unique characteristics, such as serial numbers, model, make, etc.
2. If you purchase property which has another person's I.D. Number engraved on it, merely add your own number. **Do not attempt to remove the other number.**
3. Books can be marked by placing your driver's license number on several pages throughout the book, preferably on the inside margin.