

Travel and Holiday Safety

The holidays are a joyous time of year. It is also a time when individuals need to be alert to the possibility of crime. Taking simple precautions can ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

Preparing Your Home

Lighting

- Install lights by all exterior doors. Keep lights on all night – consider dusk to dawn sensors.
- Use timers on lights to give the impression you are home.

Doors & Windows

- Ensure doors and windows are locked.
- Ensure exterior doors and the door leading from the garage to the home are solid core or metal construction.
- Secure and lock garage door; consider disabling the garage door opener while you are away.
- Don't display gifts in full view of windows or where they can be seen from outside the residence.

Landscaping

- Trim trees to a canopy of six feet.
- Prune hedges to three feet.
- Ensure landscaping is trimmed away from doors and windows to eliminate hiding places.

Tips

- Secure valuables, such as jewelry, firearms and personally identifying information in a safe.
- Never hide a key outside.
- Consider hiring a house sitter while you are away.
- Ask neighbors to assist with trash and recycling bins and newspapers.
- Breakdown boxes before placing them out for recycling.

Shopping, Traveling, and Online

- Park in a well-lit area, lock your vehicle, and roll up the windows. Store packages out of sight.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, pay with a debit or credit card.
- Avoid wearing expensive clothing or jewelry.
- Pay attention to your surroundings, trust your instincts.
- Do not buy more than you can carry; ask a friend or store employee for assistance.
- Beware of any type of solicitor at the door – criminals sometimes pose as couriers or seeking donations.
- Save all receipts; start a file to assist in reconciling holiday and/or travel bank statements.
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for "https" in the URL or the locked padlock at the bottom of the page.
- Print and save all confirmations from online purchases.
- Track packages through shipping website.
- Ship packages requiring a signature.
- Have packages delivered to a friend, relative, neighbor or employer.

