

# Holiday Safety Tips



This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, nor pickpockets a chance to do their dirty work. Criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else, chiefly because it's a perfect opportunity to commit a crime. Keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy holiday season.

## If You're Traveling...

- Set an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask your neighbor to watch your home, shovel the walks, pick-up newspapers, collect mail, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Be sure to hide any gifts that may be left in the house while you're gone.

## If You're Out for the Evening...

- Turn on lights and a radio or the TV so that it appears someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you're out, even if you'll be gone for just a few minutes.

## If You're Shopping...

- Don't let your guard down just because you are rushing.
- Park in well-lighted spaces and as close to the store as possible, lock your car doors, and hide packages in the trunk or under the seats.
  - Make sure that you do not carry all your packages at the same time.
  - Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
  - If you take your children shopping, teach them to go to a police officer or a store security guard if they get separated or get lost.



## If a Stranger Comes to the Door...

- Stay alert to suspicious-looking couriers delivering packages to you or your neighbors.
- Many con artists take advantage of holiday generosity by going door-to-door. Ask for identification and get specifics to how and where the donations will be spent/used.
- If you feel uncomfortable, just say "no thank you" and shut the door.

## If You're at Home...

- Turn on outside lights to deter burglars.
- Report any suspicious behavior to the police or local neighborhood watch groups.
- Make sure your homeowners (or renters) insurance is up-to-date and everything is inventoried properly.