



CRIME PREVENTION HANDOUT

Vacation Crime Prevention Tips

Secure Your Residence

- Have good locks on all doors and windows and use them.
- Make sure your residence looks lived in, not empty.
- Leave shades and blinds in a normal position.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your residence while you are away. Leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Test your smoke and burglar alarms.
- Stop all deliveries, arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspaper and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Have a neighbor place garbage cans at the curb on your normal pickup day(s) and return them after the garbage pickup is made.
- Plug in timers to turn lights and a radio or television on and off at appropriate times.
- Turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing telephone.
- If you have call forwarding on your telephone, forward your calls to a trusted friend or relative.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages; leave your normal message on the machine.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway.
- If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
- Consider taking valuables to a bank safety deposit box.
- Ask police to place your home on their vacation check list.

While Traveling

- If you are staying in a hotel or motel, take all of your luggage and valuables to your room.
- Keep extra cash and valuables locked in the hotel safe.
- Never leave your keys or valuables unattended in your room.
- Keep a daily check of your belongings.
- If you are going out in an unfamiliar area, ask the hotel clerk if there are areas you should avoid.
- Use all locking devices in or out of your room.
- Know who is knocking at your door before opening it.
- Report any suspicious activity to hotel or motel management.
- Do not carry your airplane tickets and/or passport in open view.
- Carry as small amounts of cash as is reasonable. Use travelers checks and credit cards as an alternative. Keep records of their numbers in a safe place, in case they are lost or stolen.
- Take a picture of your suitcases and keep the picture(s) with you. The picture(s) may be helpful in identifying your luggage if it is lost by an airline.
- While traveling, be sure your luggage is locked.
- Males are advised to carry their wallets in an inside pocket or front trouser pocket.
- Females are advised to carry their purse under their arm.
- Label each piece of luggage with your name and *business address*.
- Be very careful with bus, train or plane tickets. They are as good as cash.
- If you are a tourist, try not to advertise the fact. Don't look lost or vulnerable. Walk with a purpose and stay alert to what's happening around you.

Reference "The Complete Campus Crime Prevention Manual" by The AEGIS Protection Group.