

Big Five

- Most intruders seek easy targets. The more difficult you make it for them, the lower your risk of becoming a victim.
- Effective security measures need not be costly. Common sense and a bit of prevention can go a very long way.
- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, where you are.
- Stand tall and walk confidently.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation leave quickly.

Holiday Safety

- If you're traveling set an automatic timer for your lights. This is a good idea at all times.
- And be sure to hide all gifts that may be left in the house while you're gone.

While Shopping

- Don't carry large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card if possible
- Don't let your guards down just because you are rushing.

Shopping Online

- Check a company's background if you are not familiar with them.
- Shop with companies you know and trust.

Public Transportation

- Wait at busy, well-lit stops.
- Once you have boarded, sit as close to the driver as possible and remain alert.
- If anyone harasses you, scream to call attention to yourself and the situation.

Biking or Jogging

- Go with a companion.
- Vary your route.
- Avoid isolated areas, especially after dark.
- Stay alert (leave your headphones at home!)

On Elevators

- Wait away from the door.
- Check inside before entering.
- If anything makes you uncomfortable, DON'T get on.
- Once on board stand by the control panel. Get off if anyone makes you uneasy.

Answering Your Door

- Keep it closed (chain guards are not dependable.)
- Install a peephole.
- Never let a stranger in for ANY reason.
- Ask service people to show identification.
- Telephone the company to verify unexpected service calls.

On The Telephone or Internet

- Don't give any information to strangers or "wrong number" callers.
- Never give your home address or personal information to persons on the telephone or in "chat groups" on the internet.
- Hang up on obscene callers or on people who won't identify themselves.
- If callers make threatening statements, contact the police.

Using Street Smarts

Whether you're 18 or 80, the best weapons against street crime are alertness and common sense.

Tips For Walkers

- Choose busy streets and avoid passing vacant lots, alleys, or deserted construction sites. At night, stick to well-lit areas.
- Don't walk or jog alone. Take a friend or neighbor along if possible.
- Get to know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Find out what stores and restaurants are open late and where the police and fire stations are located.
- Carry your purse close to your body, and keep a firm grip on it. Carry a wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.
- Don't overload yourself with packages, and avoid wearing shoes or clothing that restrict your movements.
- Carry a whistle or other sound devices in case of an emergency.

Tips For Drivers

- Always lock your car and take the keys, even if you'll only be gone a short time.
- When you drive, be on the lookout for any problems that affect the neighborhood's well being— abandoned cars, missing signs, malfunctioning traffic lights, reckless drivers, or poor street lighting. Follow up and report any problems to the appropriate authorities.
- Keep your car in good running condition to avoid breakdowns.
- If your car does break down, raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the street-side door handle. Stay in the locked car. If someone stops to help, ask him or her to phone for assistance.
- Park in well-lit area that will still be well lit when you return.
- Be alert when using enclosed parking garages. Leave only your ignition key with a lot attendant, if you must leave a key.
- Always carry an emergency kit in your car. It should contain a flashlight, flares, first aid products, and a 72 hour supply of food and water.
- Never pick up hitchhikers. *Never*
- Consider purchasing a cell phone to use in an emergency.
- Before getting into your car, look underneath and inside it.

Safeguard Your Home

- Make sure all your exterior doors have good locks—at least dead bolt locks with a minimum one-inch throw.
- Use the locks you have. Always lock up when you go out, even if only for a few minutes.
- Make sure outside doors and doorframes are solid, 1 3/4" metal or hardwood.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks, or put a wooden dowel or broom handle in the door track.
- Make sure your windows have good locks, particularly those at ground level. Lock double—hung windows by sliding a small-headed bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a slight downward angle in a top corner of the inside sash and partway into the outside sash.
- Make sure all porches, entrances, and outside areas are well lit.
- Trim any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. Maintain your yard and keep ladders and tools inside when you're not using them.
- Don't hide your keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. That's the first place burglar's look! It's much better to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- Mark your valuable property like televisions, VCR's, computers, cameras, and stereos with your driver's license number. Borrow an engraver from the police. Keep a record of your property in a safe place.
- Consider installing an alarm system for summoning emergency Help. Law enforcement agencies can often help you access your needs.
- Ask local police to do a security survey.
- If you park your car outside of your garage, never leave the garage door opener in the car.

Protecting and Improving Your Neighborhood

- Get to know your neighbors and discuss your concerns about the neighborhood and community. Share information.
- Be alert to things that say "we don't care" and invite crime like poor street lighting, boarded-up buildings, a lack of recreational activities or jobs for teens, vacant lots littered with debris, and inadequate day care and after-school programs. Work with law enforcement, civic groups, schools, local businesses, community agencies, churches, and service clubs to solve the problems.
- Join a neighborhood or apartment watch group. Members receive training in crime prevention and agree to look out for each other's safety and property. If there's no watch organization in your neighborhood, start one with help from local law enforcement and community groups.
- Help local government do its job. Alert law enforcement of suspicious activities and any crimes. Report non-working street lights, missing street signs, abandoned houses, and other problems to the agencies responsible.