



# Holiday Security Tips

During this holiday season you will likely have more valuables in your home than usual. Remember—you aren't the only ones doing your holiday shopping—burglars and thieves are looking for great “bargains” too. Have a happy holiday season—protect yourself and your home.

The tendency to carry large amounts of cash is greater during the holidays. Take extra precaution when carrying large amounts of cash. Use credit cards whenever possible.

## But if you must use cash ...

- *Don't* leave cash laying around the house. Keep all money in a safe place.
- Plan shopping trips and take only the amount of cash you will need.
- *Don't* flash cash in public.
- *Don't* carry a purse if you don't need to. Keep your keys and wallet in an inside jacket pocket.
- *Don't* take all your credit cards with you—carry only the ones you will need. Inventory them daily and report any losses immediately.

## Presents left unattended inside your car can invite theft...

- Park in well-lit and well-traveled areas.
- *Don't* leave your car unlocked.
- Pick up major items at the end of a shopping trip.
- Lock all purchases in the trunk of your car or hide them.
- Remove all items from your car when you return home.

## Packages left on door steps are easy to steal. Thieves have been known to follow delivery trucks...

- Schedule deliveries when you are home.
- If you can't be home, ask a friend/neighbor to have your parcels delivered to their residence.
- Call police anytime you or your neighbors observe suspicious activities.

## Remember, most of us are away from home a good deal during the holiday season...

- Keep windows, doors, and garages locked.
- *Don't* display gifts where they are easily visible through a window or door.
- *Don't* hide or leave gifts in the garage.
- Break up boxes, especially packaging for expensive electronic equipment, and put in garbage bags.

Going out of town for the holidays? Tell a neighbor how long you will be gone and where you can be reached. Ask them to check your house daily.

Make your home look occupied while you are away by locking all doors, using your security system if you have one, or leaving on some lights, a radio, or a TV.

