



HOLIDAY SAFETY

AT HOME

- Lock your doors and windows if you are going out - even if you plan to be away for a short amount of time.
- Keep gift boxes away from areas, such as windows or near trash cans, where they can be seen by outside travelers.
- Never let anyone into your home that you do not know.
- When returning to your home from an outing, do not go in if there are signs that someone has forced entry while you were away. Go to a neighbor's house and call the police immediately.
- If you shop online and have packages shipped to your home, always make sure someone is there to receive them or ship them to a trusted address for pick-up.

TRAVELING

TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT YOUR HOME FROM LOOKING VACANT:

- Stop your mail or newspaper service.
- Have your walks shoveled.
- Get an electric timer for your lights.
- Call the police department and ask for vacation patrol checks.
- If you are traveling in a car, know your route of travel; check the road conditions before you leave.

OUT AND ABOUT

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or other valuables.
- Do not leave packages unattended or in plain sight in your car.
- When carrying a purse or wallet, hold it close to your body.
- Never leave items unattended in a shopping cart.

- Stay in well-lit areas and on heavily traveled streets. Avoid routes that take you through dark, vacant areas.
- When shopping, try to go with family or friends.
- If shopping with your children, make sure they know who to go to in case they get lost: a store clerk, security guard, or police.
- Always trust your instincts. If people or locations are making you uneasy, leave or stay away.
- Use a debit or credit card instead of cash, if possible—it is easier to carry and replace if lost or stolen.
- If possible, use the ATM during the day. Be ready with a card in hand as you approach the machine.

DECORATING

- When stringing lights, make sure the cords are in good condition.
- Do not overload outlets; it is a good practice to stick to three sets of lights per extension cord.
- Test lights before hanging and unplug before doing maintenance on them.
- Keep indoor Christmas trees watered and away from open flames. A dry tree can spread fire very quickly.
- Clean fireplaces annually. Make sure that a screen or door is securely in place while the fire is burning.
- Extinguish candles, fireplaces, and unplug lights before leaving home.

DONATING TO CHARITIES

- Before donating, make sure that you know about the charity.
- If solicited by an organization, ask for information about them before you donate.
- If solicited by an individual, offer food or other non-monetary donations.