



i General Tips

41. Set up a buddy system or Neighborhood Watch in your community.
42. Avoid walking on poorly lit streets – especially if you know the area has a high crime rate or bad reputation.
43. Have your government checks directly deposited to your bank. Direct deposit is a free service.
44. Try not to carry a purse, but if you do, keep it close to your body with a firm grasp, not dangling by your side where it can be easily stolen.
45. Large sums of money should be carried in a secure undergarment or money belt.
46. Don't flash large amounts of cash. It's an open invitation to a thief.
47. Report to police if you see someone trying to pry open a car window or door.

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For more information, call your local police or sheriff's department.

Crime Watch 2013

Important information from...

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Preventing Crime Where You Live and Work

i Around the House

1. Use secure locks on doors and windows. Lock the door even if you leave the house for only a short time.
2. Use a dead bolt instead of a key in your doorknob lock.
3. Never open the door to a stranger. Always ask for a photo identification to be slid under the door.
4. Leave extra keys with a trusted neighbor – not in the mailbox or under the doormat.
5. Install good exterior lighting. A burglar is more likely to avoid a home or business where he can be easily observed.
6. Keep shrubs and landscaping trimmed below window height. Don't give a thief a hiding place.
7. Trim back branches that can be climbed to reach upper-floor windows.
8. Secure sliding glass doors and windows with a broomstick or metal Charley Bar.
9. Don't leave tools exposed in an unlocked garage. A burglar could use them to enter your home.
10. Be sure door hinges cannot be removed from the outside.
11. Store ladders inside.
12. Keep valuables in a safe deposit box.
13. Don't give strangers information over the telephone. Report annoying calls and repeated wrong numbers to the police and phone company.
14. Report broken streetlights.
15. Record your credit card numbers and serial numbers of valuable documents and store them in a safe place or safe deposit box.

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16. Keep emergency telephone numbers near the phone.
17. If you are in the backyard, upstairs or basement, be sure to lock the front door, day or night.
18. Close and lock all garage doors.
19. Women living alone should list only their last name and first initial on mailboxes or in the telephone directory. Never use 'Miss' or 'Ms.'
20. Photograph your valuables in their locations around your home and make a list of the make, model and serial numbers. This is important for proof when filing insurance claims. Store copies of this information in a safe deposit box or with a relative.
21. Permanently mark your property, either with your name or a number (do not use your social security number). Marking your property enables it to be identified as yours and deters robbers who would have trouble selling obviously stolen property. (Some law enforcement agencies have a service in which you can get your property marked, called "Operation I.D.")
22. If you come home and find that your home has been burglarized, don't touch anything! Go to a neighbor's home immediately and call the police or sheriff's department.

While You're Away From Home

23. Notify neighbors when you're going on vacation or if you expect to be away from home for any length of time. Ask them to watch for strangers who might be near or around your home while you're away. Cancel newspapers and other deliveries. Accumulated newspapers tell a burglar you're not home.
24. Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and packages while you're away, or ask the Postal Service to hold them for you at the Post Office until you return.
25. Arrange to have your lawn mowed or sidewalks shoveled while you're away.
26. Many police departments offer a "Dark House" service. You simply notify them of the period of time you will be away, and give them a phone number to be used in order to reach you in case of emergency. The police responsible for patrolling your section of town will make regular checks on your home in your absence.



Your Car

27. Lock your car at all times. Never leave the keys in the ignition, even if you'll only be gone for a minute.
28. Don't leave packages on the seats or where they're visible. Put valuables out of sight or lock them in the trunk.
29. Place an identification mark on your car and its accessories.
30. Never pick up hitchhikers.
31. When you have your car serviced or parked by an attendant, leave only the ignition key with the car. Your house keys should be kept separate and taken with you.
32. If you're followed or harassed while driving, drive to a police station. If the police station is too far away, drive to a gas station, shopping center or other well-lit area, and call the police or sheriff's department.

Teenagers

33. Always lock your bicycle.
34. Engrave your bicycle frame with an identification number and record it in a safe place.
35. Don't hitchhike.
36. Use a strong, secure padlock on your school locker.
37. Drinking while driving is a crime and it could cost you your life. Don't accept rides from friends who have been drinking.



At the Office

38. At closing time, be sure that all desks and important file cabinets are locked.
39. Keep a minimum amount of petty cash, including "coffee money."
40. Business owners should permanently mark typewriters, postage machines, calculators, laptops – anything of value that's easily stolen.