



25 Days of Holiday Safety Tips



Provided by:
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WEEK ONE SAFETY TIPS

- 1) This week, we are sharing a few tips to help you stay safe while holiday shopping—shop during daylight hours whenever possible; when shopping at night, don't go alone and park in a well-lit area.
- 2) Avoid wearing large, expensive jewelry when shopping, and if possible, do not carry a purse, they are a prime target of criminals in crowded shopping areas. Carry your wallet in your front pocket.
- 3) When shopping, avoid carrying large amounts of cash and pay with a credit card or check whenever possible.
- 4) When shopping, remember where you parked, have your keys in your hand before you leave the shopping area, and avoid overloading yourself with packages so that you can always be aware of your surroundings.
- 5) If possible, don't leave packages or valuables in your car. If you must do many errands at once, secure your packages in the trunk of your car and move your car to another location before re-entering a store.
- 6) Beware of a stranger approaching you for any reason in a store parking lot, even for something as simple as asking directions.
- 7) For parents, when in a parking lot, keep your keys in hand and all other doors locked while you are strapping your children into car seats or folding up a stroller.

WEEK TWO SAFETY TIPS



- 8) This week, we are sharing a few home safety tips that a burglar doesn't want you to know... for example, the two things a criminal hates the most are loud, barking dogs and nosy neighbors.
- 9) Don't think that criminals aren't computer savvy, don't post your vacation plans on Facebook, especially if you have other pertinent information listed there, such as an e-mail address or phone number.
- 10) Burglars will look everywhere in the master bedroom, especially the sock drawer, the medicine cabinet, and the bedside table, they also check the office... one place they don't check as often are kids' bedrooms.
- 11) Burglars will look for signs that someone isn't home, newspapers piled up, mail sticking out of a mailbox.
- 12) Burglars don't usually dress like a "burglar" and many times, they carry a clipboard, or a rake or a badge... and they might knock first.
- 13) A cracked window or garage door is definitely an invitation and makes a burglar's job easier.
- 14) Even if you pay a lot of money for a state of the art security system, it only works if you turn it on

WEEK THREE SAFETY TIPS

- 15) This week, we are sharing some tips of how to secure your home during the holidays... for example, leave both indoor and outdoor lights on in your home at night and when you are going out for an extended period. If you are worried about the cost, invest in some reasonably priced timers.
- 16) You may want to reconsider putting a tree with gifts underneath on display through your front window.
- 17) If leaving for vacation, let your trusted neighbors know. Ask them to keep a close eye on your home, or walk through the house on occasion and ask them or someone else to pick up your newspaper and mail or have these services stopped while you are out of town.
- 18) If you can, shred all mail and papers that have any identifying information; look for free government-sponsored shredding events around town if you do not own a shredder.
- 19) Keep plants trimmed so that burglars can't hide in a place where they wouldn't be visible to passersby.
- 20) If you receive any big-ticket items, such as a computer or big screen t.v., make sure to mark them with your drivers' license number and record the items' serial numbers in a safe place... and take the time to do this for all of the valuables in your home if you haven't already.
- 21) If possible, invest in outside doors made of solid core construction, including the door leading from the garage to the house and secure them with a deadbolt lock (single or double cylinder) with a minimum 1-inch throw.

WEEK FOUR SAFETY TIPS

- 22) Don't be afraid to "bother" the police if you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Please call the police if you hear a car or house alarm, many times the neighbor's call comes into dispatch minutes before the one from the alarm company. And please report any stolen items to the police, even something as small as a planter from your yard. All of this information helps us track crime trends and create patrol routes.
- 23) Call or e-mail our District 3 Liaison Officer, Kevlon Kirkpatrick, for a free home safety survey, 407-246-2196 or kevlon.kirkpatrick@cityoforlando.net.
- 24) Consider joining or starting a Neighborhood Watch on your block, knowing your neighbors is the best form of crime prevention. Contact our Neighborhood Watch coordinator at 407-246-3628.
- 25) It's Christmas Day, when putting your trash curbside after the holidays, break down any boxes from high-end items so as not to advertise what type of property is in your home.

Thank you, and be safe!

Your City of Orlando District 3 Staff