

Best Practices in Crime Prevention

- Home
- Car
- Out and about
- Travel or vacation
- In the neighborhood

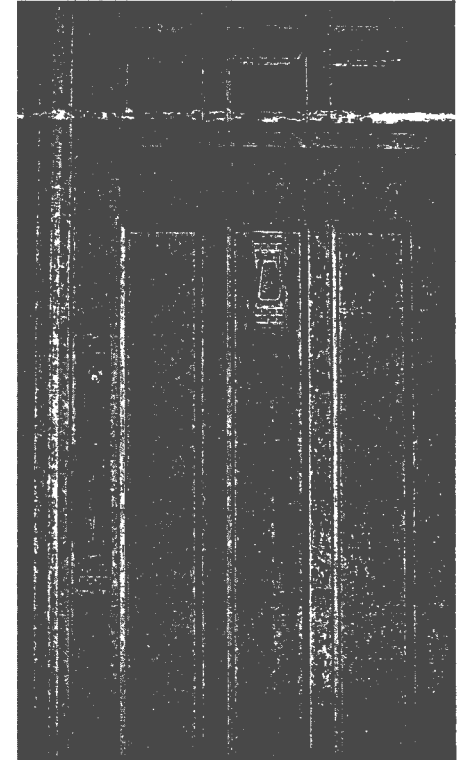


Best Practices in the Home



In the Home

- The Door
- Make sure you have sturdy, metal or solid-wood doors at all entries into your home.
- Install and use well-made deadbolt locks (1½-inch throw or greater) on all exterior doors.
- Make sure all exterior doors have peepholes.
- Light up entry doors.



IN THE LITTLE TOWN

- **Around the house**

- Trim the shrubbery around your doors and windows.
- Install an alarm.
- Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- Ask a law enforcement officer for a free home security survey.



If You Live in an Apartment or Condominium

- Be cautious around entrances, parking areas, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and other common areas.
- Be sure that your entry door has a deadbolt lock and a peephole.
- Are the mailboxes well-traveled, well-lighted, and do they have good locks?
- Leave music playing or a light on while you are gone.



Being Car-Wise

Being Car-Wise

- Carjacking

Carjacking is stealing a car by force with a driver and/or passenger in the vehicle.

While the chances of becoming a victim are slim, preventive measures can reduce your risk.

Being Car-Wise (continued)

- What do carjackers look for?
 - Intersections controlled by stop lights or signs
 - Garages and parking lots for mass transit, shopping malls, and grocery stores
 - Self-serve gas stations and car washes
 - Residential driveways and streets as people get in and out of cars
 - Highway exit and entry ramps

Being Car-Wise (continued)

- Getting in
 - Walk with a purpose to your car and stay alert.
 - Approach your car with your door key already in hand.
 - Be cautious of people who approach you and ask for directions or hand out fliers.

Being Car-Wise (continued)



- On the road
 - Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up.
 - When you come to a stop, leave enough room to maneuver around the other cars.
 - Drive in the center lane to make it harder for would-be carjackers to approach the car.

Being Car-Wise (continued)

- On the road (continued)
 - Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, call for help.
 - If you think someone is following you, head for the nearest brightly lighted area or police station.
 - If you are suspicious of an unmarked car with flashing police lights ordering you to stop, drive to a well-lighted area with plenty of people before stopping.

Being Car-Wise (continued)

- Getting out
 - Always lock the doors and take the keys when you leave your car.
 - Park in well-lit areas, near sidewalks or walkways.
 - Never leave valuables in plain view, even if the car is locked.
 - Always look around before you get out and stay alert to the surroundings.

Personal Safety Best Practices



Out and About

- Walking or jogging
 - As you walk down the street or through the parking garage, walk alertly and assertively.
 - Walk or jog in the middle of the sidewalk rather than against the doorways or along the curb.
 - Stay alert—iPods and cell phones will distract you.
 - When walking, keep your purse hugged close to your body and wallets in front pants pocket or jacket pocket.

Out and About (continued)

- Walking or jogging (continued)
 - Walk or jog with a companion.
 - Use familiar areas.
 - Do not walk or jog after dark or in secluded areas.
 - Be sure to face traffic.
 - Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing to improve visibility.



Out and About (continued)

- Walking or jogging (continued)
 - Carry a whistle or shrill alarm to summon help if needed.
 - Vary your route and pattern.
 - Always be aware of your surroundings.
 - Walk or jog away from bushes where someone can hide.

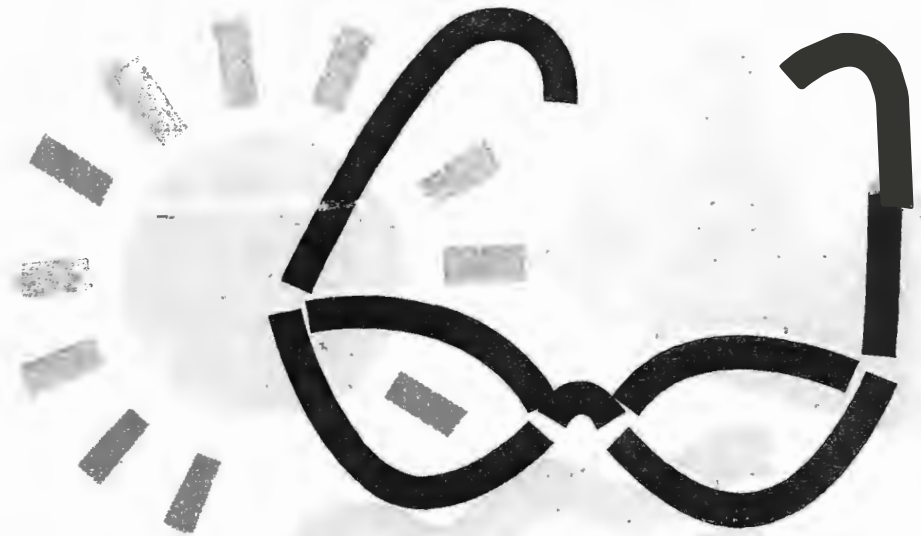


Out and About (continued)

- Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)
 - Try to avoid using ATMs when alone.
 - Try to avoid using an ATM after dark.
 - When possible, use an ATM inside a bank or store and be alert before using it.
 - Have all necessary cards and documents ready.
 - Protect your personal identification number (PIN).
 - When your transaction is complete, leave immediately.



On Vacation



On Vacation



Before you leave

- Place several lights on a timer.
- Ask a neighbor or family member to check your home periodically.
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery.
- Don't forget to set your alarm.

On Vacation (continued)

While traveling

- Take only essential credit cards.
- Pack as lightly as possible.
- Large bags should be shipped in advanced for extended vacations.
- If you purchased something hefty, ask the merchant to ship it home for you.
- Check maps before you go out so you can tour confidently.



On Vacation (continued)

- Try not to display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags, or other items that might draw attention.
- Stick to well-lit, well-traveled streets at all times; avoid short-cuts.
- Never leave your keys out where they can be picked up (i.e., poolside, lounge).
- Never leave a room unlocked, even to go get ice or a snack from the vending machine.

On Vacation (continued)

- Make sure everyone in your party—adults, teens, children—has the name, address, and phone number of the place you are staying.
- Set up rules for each day's outings on where and how you'll link up if you become separated.
- Don't leave valuables in view in the car (your own or a rental). Leave them in the trunk or, better still, take them back to your room as soon as possible.
- Leave a photocopy of your wallet's contents at home or with a friend.

In the Neighborhood

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Start or strengthen your Neighborhood Watch program.
- Look out for each other's children.
- Help those who need a hand in making their homes more secure.
- Involve teenagers in the neighborhood's safety.
- Invite neighbors to work together on all sorts of community projects.

In the Neighborhood (continued)

- Get involved in your neighborhood and at the community level.
- Find out whether your community has community policing.
- Find out who's working to help keep kids out of trouble.
- Be a volunteer or mentor.