

# Crime Prevention Tips

*As crime becomes more prevalent in our society we certainly don't need to panic, but we should be aware. Here are some tips of things that you can do to help keep you safe.*

## House Safety Tips

1. Make sure every outside door is metal or solid wood and has sturdy, well-installed deadbolt locks. (Many burglars will spend no more than 60 seconds attempting to break into a home.)
2. Don't use door chains; they break easily and don't keep intruders out.
3. Secure sliding glass doors by installing commercially available locks, or by putting a broomstick or wooden dowel in the inside track to jam the door.
4. Never hide house keys under the door mat or a rock near the door. (Most burglars know that trick.) Instead give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
5. When you move to a new house or apartment, have a competent locksmith re-key the locks.
6. Prune back shrubbery and trees so that they don't obscure windows or doors.
7. Install outdoor floodlights or motion-sensor lights to eliminate any areas where an intruder might hide.
8. Don't leave anything, such as ladders or tools, lying around that can be used to break into your home.
9. If you're a woman and you live alone, don't put "Ms. Jane Doe" on your doorbell or mailbox. Just put the initial of your first name and your last name, "J. Doe."
10. Write down license numbers on vehicles used by suspicious persons in your neighborhood and report to the police.
11. Join a Neighborhood Watch Group. If one doesn't exist, start one with the help of your local law enforcement agency.

## Driving Safety Tips

1. Keep all doors locked and windows closed.
2. Park in a well-lit area. Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
3. Keep all valuables out of sight by putting them either in the trunk or under the seat.
4. Never leave your keys in your car, for any reason.
5. Never leave your car doors unlocked.
6. As you approach your car, have your keys ready. Before entering the car, check the back seat to ensure no one is hiding there.
7. Keep a secure hold on your purse and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
8. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall or store security for an escort.
9. Never, ever pick up hitchhikers. If someone tries to get into your vehicle, drive off immediately. If this is not possible, use your horn to draw attention to what is happening.

## Personal Safety Tips

1. While walking, avoid isolated areas and walk confidently. Walk with another person if possible. Avoid carrying a lot of cash or wearing things like jewelry or furs that would attract unwanted attention.
2. Be aware of your surroundings – know who's out there and what's going on.
3. Trust your instincts. If a situation or place makes you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, leave.

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