



Crime Prevention Tips from the Flower Mound Police Department

Don't let some Grinch steal your Christmas.

Package Delivery

Many of us are receiving or sending packages this time of year.

- Ask neighbors who are home during the day to keep eye out for deliveries.
- Learn what security services are available from your chosen courier.
- Consider insuring items to be mailed.
- Report suspicious persons in neighborhood.
- Consider having packages sent to your place of employment, if allowed.
- Contact package recipients and tell them when to expect delivery.
- Consider sending packages so that a recipient signature is required.

At Home

- Keep the outside of your home well lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Consider putting lights on a timer when away.
- Don't display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don't advertise gifts received by the boxes left for the garbage collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear garbage bag.
- Consider installing an alarm system.
- Hire a house sitter or have a neighbor(s) keep an eye on your home.
- Make sure to lock gates that enter into your backyard.
- Adopt a dog from our Adoption Center. Many older dogs are already house broken and are an effective crime deterrent.
- If traveling during Holidays, stop your newspaper have the postal service hold your mail or have a neighbor collect these for you regularly.
- Complete a vacation house check with the police department.

While shopping

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during hours of darkness.
- Do not park next to vehicles that you can not see into.
- Prior to arriving at the shopping center, lock all your valuables in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Ask security to escort you to your vehicle if you feel uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside. If you suspect someone following you, report it to security immediately. Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.

- Shop with a friend, there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, pay for purchases with a check, credit or debit card.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Carry your wallet in a front pocket of your pants for safety.
- Crooks look for the "high dollar" shopping bags, when possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain non-descript bag.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags can easily be switched or taken.
- Talk to your children about what to do if they are lost and explain "Stranger Danger".
- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages. Use the store's package pick-up.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.

For College Students coming home during the Holidays

- Make sure all doors and windows are properly secured of you residence.
- Consider taking items of "high value" back to you primary residence; money, jewelry, TV, VCR, stereo, computer.
- Make sure that you have recorded the serial numbers of valuables and engraved them with a discernable identification number.
- Large displays of valuables should not be visible through the windows.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer, if applicable.
- Leave a radio or television on so the residence looks and sounds occupied.
- Check with your local police department to see if they provide "close patrol" services for unattended residences during the Holiday season.

For your vehicle:

- Park your vehicles in an area that is visible to the public and well lit.
- Secure all doors and windows.
- Remove all valuables or secure them out of sight.
- If your vehicle has a built-in security, use it.
- When leaving for a holiday or vacation, do not pack your car the night before. It only makes a more attractive target for a thief.