

Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department

Holiday Crime Prevention Advice

The holiday season is a time when people will be rushing around shopping, visiting relatives or simply taking a much needed vacation from the stresses of everyday life. Unfortunately, criminals enjoy the holidays just as much as you do. Burglary and crimes involving vehicles actually increase during this festive period of the year. Here are just a few suggestions to keep your holidays happy and safe.

When using your vehicle

- Never leave presents or valuables on open display in your car.
- Place purchased valuables in the trunk or in a portion of your vehicle that is not visible from the outside. .
- Park in safe, well lit areas. Activate car alarms and lock your vehicle.
- Remove GPS devices and any associated cradle or suction cup marks that may remain on your windshield.
- Remove charging cables and sunglasses from your vehicle.
- Do not leave vehicle documentation, house keys or paperwork containing your address in your car.
- Remove any and all electronics such as laptops or digital media players from sight.

When out shopping

- Do not leave your purse, wallet, keys or mobile telephone in your shopping cart or basket.
- Do not put any valuables such as cell phones or credit cards down on the checkout counter when you are purchasing items.
- Keep your valuables in an inside coat pocket or zip them up in your bag and keep it close to your body.
- Carry your wallet in your front pocket to deter pick-pockets.

When at home

- Don't have your presents visible from the outside of your home. Wait until the last minute to display gifts, it also adds to the excitement of the holidays.
- Don't put out your empty boxes from new purchases out until collection day. Be sure to break up the boxes and tie them up together. Gift and retail boxes give burglars information indicating what valuables you have just acquired.
- Photograph all expensive jewelry and keep track of serial numbers of appliances and new purchases.
- Never leave your purse or valuables on tables next to entrances of your home and always lock your doors.
- Keep an eye out for vulnerable or elderly neighbors during the season.

When on vacation or away for an extended period of time

- Arrange with your neighbors to have them hold any mail or packages for you.
- Halt newspaper delivery.

- Have someone available to shovel your walkways in the event of snow. A snow covered walkway with no footprints or no tire prints on your driveway indicates a vacant residence.
- Install motion sensors on your exterior light fixtures.
- Lock your home and set the alarm. Be sure your alarm company has the information of a trusted individual that they can contact locally.
- Set lights and appliances up on timers. New digital timers can be set so your lights and radios turn on and off at staggered intervals.

Your Parsippany-Troy Hills Police Department wishes you and your family, a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on crime prevention and related topics, contact Officer Earl Kinsey (Community Relations Officer) at (973) 263-7176.