

Check Your Locks

- » Make sure every external door has a strong, well-installed dead bolt lock. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough.
- » Sliding glass doors offer easy access to burglars if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door, or by installing commercially available locks. To prevent the door being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame. Then insert a pin in the hole.
- » Lock double-hung windows with key locks or “pin” your windows by drilling a small hole at a 45 degree angle between the inner and outer frames, then insert a nail that can be removed. You should secure basement windows with grilles or grates (but make sure that they can be opened from the inside in case of fire).
- » **NEVER** hide keys around the outside of your home!! Instead, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- » When you move into a new house or apartment, **RE-KEY THE LOCKS.**

Check Your Doors

While we all like to feel that once we close and lock our doors, we're safe and secure, the truth of the matter is that a lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car door but leaving the window down with your wallet on the front seat!

Take these steps to make your home as secure as possible:

- » All outside doors should be metal or solid wood.
- » Install a peephole or wide angle viewer in all entry doors so that you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and don't keep out intruders.
- » If your doors don't fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them.

Get More Safety Tips

For tips on other ways to stay safe from crime in your daily life, see the other brochures in this series, available from our Website at www.mpd.cdc.gov/safety. Or visit your local police district. To find the one nearest you, visit www.mpd.cdc.gov/districts.

Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (888) 919-2746 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see www.mpd.cdc.gov/tipline.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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June 2011

FOR YOUR SAFETY



Family Travel

Tips for protecting your home when you're away and for protecting your family and property while you're traveling



Have fun and be safe.

Whenever you leave town for business or pleasure, we want to help you stay safe while you're enjoying your trip, and to keep your home secure while you're away.

Leaving Your Home

When it comes to your home, the secret is to make it appear as though you never left! Some points you may want to consider:

- » Keep shades and blinds in their normal positions
- » **STOP** mail and newspaper delivery, or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.
- » Put several household lights on timers so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
- » Arrange to have grass mowed (or snow shoveled) while you're gone.
- » Make sure all your door and window locks are in working order — **AND USE THEM!**
- » You may want to leave a radio on — or put it on a timer.
- » Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway overnight — anything that might suggest someone's home.
- » Activate your home alarm.
- » See more burglary prevention tips on the inside panel

Packing for Your Trip

So much goes into planning for a trip — whether it is for a vacation or business. Planning can decrease the chances of crime joining you on your journey. Some ideas about what you may want to take:

- » Clean out your wallet or purse before you go; take only essential credit cards. Plan to use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash whenever possible.
- » Carry your purse close to your body, or place your wallet in an inside front pocket. Even better, take a "fanny pack" or wear a money pouch under your clothes.
- » Pack as lightly as possible if you are walking, instead of using transportation, to your final destination. Lots of heavy, cumbersome bags will slow you down and make you more vulnerable to getting robbed.
- » Keep a separate record of the contents of checked

luggage. And keep anything of value such as medicine and jewelry in a carry-on that stays with you.

- » If you are going on an extended vacation, consider shipping large bags to your destination in advance. For the return trip, mail bulky new purchases to your home, or ask merchants to do it for you.

Out and About

Remember that tourists make tempting targets for thieves. Often lost or distracted, weighed down with bags, and carrying cameras, plane tickets, money and other valuables, unsuspecting travelers can attract crime like a magnet. One of the best things for you and your family to do is to blend in as much as possible with the crowd.

- » Don't display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags and other items that might draw attention.
- » Check maps before you go out so you can tour confidently. If you must consult a map, step inside a building or restaurant to do so.
- » Stick to well-lit, well-traveled streets at all times — **DON'T TAKE SHORTCUTS.**

- » **ALWAYS** lock your car when it's parked, even if the stop is brief. Keep valuables **OUT OF SIGHT**, preferably locked in the trunk. **DON'T ADVERTISE** that you are a tourist by leaving maps and guidebooks on the seat or dashboard — keep them in the glove compartment or hidden under a seat.

Traveling safely with your family also means sticking together and **KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES!** Make sure they know where you're staying (name and address), and teach them what to do if they get lost or separated. You might want to agree on a meeting place, just in case. And by all means, make sure your kids know not to accept rides or favors from strangers.

Using ATMs and Long Distance Phone Cards

It is extremely important for you to protect your Personal Identification Number (PIN). A PIN is a confidential code that is issued to the cardholder to permit access to that account. Your PIN should be memorized, secured and not given out to anyone—even family members or bank employees. The fewer people who have access to your PIN, the better.

- » **NEVER** write your PIN on ATM or long-distance calling cards.
- » **DON'T** write your PIN on a piece of paper and place it in your wallet. If your wallet and card are lost or stolen, someone will have everything they need to remove funds from your account, make unauthorized debit purchases, or run up your long-distance phone bill.
- » **BE SURE** to take your ATM receipt to record transactions and match them against monthly statements. Dishonest people can use your receipt to get your account number.
- » **NEVER** leave the ATM receipt at the site.

