

# Holiday Safety Tips

## AT HOME:



- Do not display gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Write down serial numbers of gifts before you wrap them.
- Turn on inside and outside lights before you leave home. A house that is lit up looks occupied. Turn on a radio or TV to make it sound like someone is home.
- As difficult as it is, do not brag about the expensive presents you received and don't post pictures on social media. That just lets the world know what you have available to steal.
- Don't leave notes for friends, family or delivery personnel on the front door.
- Use your deadbolt lock every time you leave home, even for a short trip. Don't hide keys anywhere outside your home. The thieves know all the hiding places!
- Keep track of deliveries if you order on line. Deliveries are often left on your doorstep and are visible from the street even if the welcome mat is placed over them. If you can't be home, arrange for delivery at work or pick up the item at the delivery office.
- Do not leave empty boxes from big-ticket items (like flat screen TV's or electronics) at the curb for trash pick-up, it can advertise to thieves what is inside your home. Cut them up and place in the recycle bin or trash bin.

## ON VACATION:

- Let a trusted friend or neighbor know if you are leaving town and how to get in touch with you in case of an emergency. The Police Department does have a house-check program if you will be gone for more than a few days.
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery. Have a neighbor check your home daily for flyers, advertisements or packages. Ask neighbors to park in your driveway or in front of your home while you are gone.
- Don't broadcast family trips to people you don't know well whether online or in person.

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- Don't publish your vacations plans to social media sites before you leave.
- Use timers on lights and a TV or radio. Make your home look and sound occupied, even if it is not. Timers are inexpensive and can be purchased in most department, discount, hardware and home improvement stores.
- Always set the alarm. An audible siren may be enough to scare thieves away if they do try to enter your home.
- Before heading out of town, test your security system to make sure it is working properly. Call the alarm company and make sure your contact list is up to date.

## Holidays

Don't let your holiday be ruined by false alarms! There are simple steps you can take to avoid what could be costly mistakes, while at the same time creating a lovely holiday atmosphere in your home or business.

## Motion Detectors and Holiday Decorations

- Always ensure that hanging or moving decorations will not activate motion detectors, especially when heating systems come on.
- If you don't know the location of your motion detectors or the area they cover, contact your alarm company for assistance. They should be able to tell you what your motion sensors "see" and you will then be better able to avoid potential false alarms.
- Once your decorations have been placed, inspect to make sure that they do not interfere with any window or door contacts.
- Firmly secure outdoor lights around doors and windows so that they will not activate glass break detectors in the event of winds or storms.
- Check doors and windows for cracks or a loose fit in the frame, as inclement weather and wind gusts during the winter season could cause false alarms.
- If your doors and windows are loose, coordinate their repair with your alarm company to avoid unnecessary false alarms.



With everyone's help, you can make the Holidays safe, happy and false alarm free!  
Best wishes for a safe holiday celebration this year.

Your friends at Gill Security

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