

## Holiday Safety

Now that we are in the holiday season, it is a good time to anticipate your personal safety and home security needs.

### Leaving Home for the Holidays

- File a S.E.A.L. Security Vacation Watch
- Stop your mail delivery.
- Have a neighbor pick up newspapers and packages.
- Consider putting lights on a timer.
- Consider having a neighbor park in your driveway.



### Child-Proofing

If you have small children visiting (or your children are visiting someone else) take all appropriate child-proofing precautions:

- Make sure poisonous materials are out of reach.
- Cover electrical outlets.
- Protect toddlers from head-high sharp corners (such as tables).
- Barricade stairs.

### Food Routines

- Consider any food restrictions (such as nut allergies).
- Make sure food is kept at the proper temperature and not left without refrigeration too long.

### Christmas Trees

- Make sure your lights are in good condition (no cracked insulation).
- Consider replacing older light strings with LEDs. They are safer, cooler, and use less electricity.
- Keep a real tree properly watered. Once it begins to dry out, dispose of it *immediately*, as it has already become a fire hazard.
- Keep trees (and all decorations) away from sources of heat.

### Parking Somewhere Unfamiliar

We often forget about dangers that can occur in such places as dark parking lots or remote parking areas.

- Park in well-lit, heavily trafficked areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Have your keys in hand and look inside your vehicle before entering.
- Lock the doors as soon as you are in your vehicle.
- Do not roll down the windows if someone inquires

about directions.

- At night, ask for a security escort to your vehicle.

### Driving Somewhere Unfamiliar

Driving can be a safety risk all on its own and there are many other factors that can influence our safety.

- Be extra cautious while driving at night.
- Carry emergency supplies, including flares or reflectors.
- Anticipate hazardous weather.
- Do not give rides to strangers or stop to assist with a disabled vehicle.

### Travel Safe Not Sorry

Use extra caution for your personal safety while traveling. The excitement and hurried nature of travel can leave us vulnerable.

- Carry minimal cash and keep tickets secure in an inside pocket.
- Do not leave luggage unattended and report abandoned baggage.
- Only use official car services (Lyft, Uber, etc.) *that you requested*, or taxis with official markings and at official pick-up areas.
- If traveling by car, be sure your vehicle is serviced, and your route is planned.

For a free courtesy watch of your property while you are away from home, go to  
[vacationwatch.sealsecurity.com](http://vacationwatch.sealsecurity.com)  
(Please note that the form cannot be completed on a mobile phone.)