

Door-To-Door Sales

Many door-to-door sales are not legitimate. Provincial laws protect you against quick sales at your door.

Prevention Tips

- Ask to see the salesperson's identification and license or registration. Take note of their name as well as the name and address of the company.
- Before purchasing a product or service, call local stores who sell the same merchandise and compare prices.
- Don't be pressured into buying anything. Watch for signs such as: an offer of a "free gift" if you buy a product and an offer that is only good for one day.
- Ask the salesperson to leave as soon as you feel threatened or intimidated. Do not leave the person unattended.
- Report the incident to the police if you are suspicious.
- Your province/territory may give you a specified number of days during which you can cancel a contract you make with a door-to-door salesperson. Please contact your local consumer protection agency for further information. Google the company, ask friends, educate yourself before buying, IF you buy.

Public Utility Imposter Scam

You receive a knock at the door and are confronted by two people. They claim to be from one of the Public Utility Company's inspection services. Once they are in the house, one will have you accompany him to the in-home service location (gas-meter, water-meter or electrical panel usually located in the basement). The other will ask to use the washroom, the telephone or merely wait upstairs. These people may not be utility inspectors. They may be thieves searching your house for valuables, medication and information about you. Quite often when they leave the home, the theft goes undetected for a long period of time. Could you tell if part of your medication or some of the money from your purse/wallet was missing?

Prevention Tips

- Always be especially cautious if there is more than one person at your door.
- Demand identification at the door. Carefully check the identification and, if in doubt, DO NOT LET THEM IN.
- Call the public service department of the utility company and confirm the identity of the apparent inspectors.
- Never leave anyone alone in your home. Tell them they can use the telephone or washroom somewhere else.
- Do not hesitate to check the credentials of a public official.
- Do not let anyone pressure you. If they pressure you citing safety, time constraints or any excuse it's likely a scam.

What should I do if I think I have been scammed?

- All fraud and scams should be reported, even if you are embarrassed or feel the amount of money is too small to worry about. While you might not be able to get your money back, you can help stop the con artist from scamming other people.
- Report all fraud and scams to your local police, or call Phone Busters at 1-888-495-8501.

Information taken from: The online Seniors Guidebook to Safety and Security (<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/ccaps-spcca/seniors-aines-eng.htm>)