

Crime Prevention Tips for the Holidays

The St. Albert Crime Reduction unit would like you to use these safety and prevention tips to make sure the Grinch doesn't put a damper on your holiday celebrations. And don't keep them to yourself, use the information provided here to start conversations with friends and family so you can all enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

Around the house

- Always lock your car and residence, even if you are only away for a few moments
- Leave lights turned on both inside and outside your residence after dark. Criminals don't like bright places.
- If you will be away from your home during the holidays, make arrangements for a friend or neighbour to pick up your mail and newspapers. An overflowing mailbox is a sure sign that no one is home and thieves are tempted to check that mailbox for holiday gifts.

Shopping - As you do your holiday shopping, don't give a thief an opportunity

- Remove IDs, vehicle registration, insurance certificates and cards from your vehicle.
- Remove keys from your vehicle, including your spare set
- Hide valuables like loose change and electronics devices from view
- Keep shopping bags out of sight
- Never leave your vehicle running while unattended
- Always close windows and lock all doors.
- Park in well-lit areas with pedestrian traffic

Record your property

- After Christmas, ensure to record your new serial numbers in the event they are stolen in the future.
- If an item doesn't have a serial number, consider engraving your name or initials on the item.
- Take a picture of your valuable items and save them in case they are stolen

Charities

While it is the season to give back to the less fortunate please ensure that you are doing your research before making your charitable donations

- Take the time to research online before contributing to someone who approaches you
- Be wary of any organization that sends unsolicited e-mails