

12 Days of Holiday Safety

Holiday Safety Tips brought to you by Neighbourhood Watch Australasia



Away From Home

Going away? Make your home look lived in by using light timers, leaving shoes by the door, and asking a neighbour to collect your mail and watch over your home. Never hide spare keys outside; instead, leave them with a trusted neighbour or friend.



Home Security

When setting up Christmas lights, make sure any doors or windows with cords running through them can still close and lock properly. Keep all doors, windows, and the garage securely locked, regardless of whether you are at home or away.



Safe Package Delivery

If you're expecting a parcel, arrange for secure delivery to prevent it from being left in easily accessible spots. Consider requesting signature confirmation or picking it up from the post office if you're unavailable. Providing a secure drop-off location can also help keep your package safe from opportunistic potential thieves.



Presents

Make sure to keep gifts completely out of sight from outside your home. Presents shouldn't be visible through windows, on porches, or in parked cars. When transporting gifts, it's best to store them in the trunk or underneath seats to keep them hidden. Easy visibility can attract thieves, so taking these precautions is essential to ensuring those holiday gifts get delivered to the right person on Christmas.



Vehicle Safety

Always lock your car and store the keys somewhere secure, away from doors and windows. Never label keys with personal details, and whenever possible, park in well-lit, secure areas.



Be Alert and Watch for Scams

Watch out for holiday scams. Scammers often target online shoppers during the holiday season with fake gift offers, fraudulent websites, or by posing as charities. Never share personal or financial information, and avoid opening emails or clicking links from unknown senders.



Fake Delivery Messages

You may receive fake texts or emails claiming you have a parcel for pick-up or delivery. These messages can look very real and appear to be legitimate. Do not click on any links. Put messages you are unsure of into the 'Junk' folder, and then check the sender's email address or the website URL address provided.



Social Media

While it's exciting to share with your friends and family your plans and presents this Christmas, try to avoid posting about gifts or travel plans on social media. Would-be thieves can monitor these posts to learn when homes will be empty, or when they're likely to be stocked with gifts.





Secure Your Devices

To ensure the security of your smart devices against viruses and unauthorized access, regularly update your anti-virus software and install the latest security patches. Don't forget to add the same level of protection to any gifted items, as they can also be vulnerable to security threats.



Online Child Safety

Children often spend more time online during the holidays. It's essential during this time to stay extra vigilant about knowing which websites and apps they are using and talking openly to them about the potential risks of sharing personal information or photos online. Online child sexual exploitation can happen to anyone, anywhere. If you're concerned, contact the Police for advice on keeping children safe online and how to report. For more information, visit: www.accce.gov.au



Reporting

Remember, you have the power to keep your community safe. If you notice any suspicious activity, don't hesitate to report it to the Police. In an emergency or when a crime is taking place, call **Triple Zero (000)**. If a crime has already occurred, you can also ring **131 444**. For anonymous reporting, call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**. All are available 24/7.



Join Neighbourhood Watch

If you haven't already, consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch or Neighbourhood Support Group. These groups play a vital role in enhancing the safety of our community by sharing valuable crime prevention resources and alerts, fostering a sense of solidarity where members look out for one another.



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