

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.

If Traveling:

~ Get an automatic timer for your lights
~ Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel, make your home look occupied
~ Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it pile up, it's a sure sign you are gone!

Going out for Evening:

~ Turn on lights/TV to look like someone is home
~ Ensure doors and windows are locked
~ Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside

Happy holidays from the Lansing Police Department!

This holiday season don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it's an opportune time for crime.

Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts. Stores, malls, and downtown

streets teem with unsuspecting shoppers. Parked vehicles with holiday purchases and other "goodies" - cell phones, briefcases, purses - left in plain view. People rush around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.



After You Open Gifts

Burglars know that many households have new and oftentimes expensive items following the holidays - especially electronic items. In too many cases, residents make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts in plain view with their other garbage.

Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars by not leaving boxes for new electronic items at the curb. Instead, breakdown the boxes and place them inside garbage bags or inside your

enclosed curbside recycling container. Consider keeping your trashcans and recycling containers inside your garage or in an enclosed porch to limit the opportunity for burglars to look inside your garbage/recycling containers prior to trash pick-up.

If you note suspicious activity, please contact the Lansing Police Department at 517-483-4600 or call 911 In Case of an Emergency.



Lansing Police Department
120 W. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48933
517-483-4600

If You Are Shopping:

- ~ Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- ~ Park in a well-lit space and be sure you lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- ~ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a credit card or check whenever possible.
- ~ Be extra careful with purses and Wallets. Carry a purse close to your Body and put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- ~ Shopping with children? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

Protect Your Vehicle

Loading up on all those gifts is a sign of progress in the holiday shopping; however, if those packages are left out in the open after they are in the car, your car has become a likely target for thieves.

ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE AND STORE ALL ITEMS OUT OF SIGHT!

Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time. However, anything left in plain view - from holiday gifts to spare change, sunglasses, phones - may tempt a thief.

Help prevent your vehicle from being stolen by **always** locking your car.

And although it's cold, **NEVER** leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or a store - even if for only a minute or two. This is not only *illegal*, it makes your vehicle very easy to steal.



Strangers at the Door

We have recent incidents of Larcenies and Burglaries associated with groups of young individuals knocking on doors asking to rake leaves or perform tasks for money. These individuals have been described as either "charismatic" or "pushy" and have been caught trying to take items from garages. Additionally, they are allowed inside homes to "use the bathroom" or use a pen and paper and take that opportunity to either remove items from the home or take note of valuables and return later to break into the homes.

It is not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there is **NO** charity involved. Ask for identification and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, do **NOT** give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead. Or think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.

Take A Holiday Inventory:

The holidays are a good time to update - or create - your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items.

Make sure items such as TV's, Game Consoles, stereo equipment, cameras, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list.

Please do not leave your only copy of the inventory in your home. We suggest e-mailing it to yourself and /or giving a copy to a trusted person.

Remember to check it twice!

