

CRIME PREVENTION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Every member of society has a responsibility to contribute to crime prevention. No single group or organization can possibly prevent crime on behalf of all.

Preventing crime is not solely the job of law enforcement. Nor is it exclusively the province of parents, homeowners, or alarm companies. Each person, each group has the potential to prevent crime and spur others to action, and the efforts of all are necessary.

Making crime prevention each person's business can mean a host of actions from specific improvements in physical security to bringing groups together for more far-reaching efforts. The central point is that each of us brings his or her leverage to bear against crime.

Reprinted from: "CRIME PREVENTION IN AMERICA, CALL TO ACTION", 1990, Crime Prevention Coalition, national Crime Prevention Council.

MADISON HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

VACATION CHECK LIST

This check list is to help remind you of those actions you should, or should not do, before leaving on vacation:

- _____ Notify the police department and register for a vacation home check. To do this, call Police at (248) 585-2100 or call the Police Reserves
- _____ Notify your neighborhood watch captain. If you don't have a neighborhood watch in your area, call the Crime Prevention Bureau at (248) 583-1424 for information on how to start one.
- _____ Let a neighbor use your driveway while you are gone. If you are leaving a vehicle in the drive, have someone move it from time to time.
- _____ Set lights on timers in different rooms to simulate normal evening activity.
- _____ Put a radio or TV on a timer to go on and off at different times.
- _____ Cut the lawn and trim shrubs before leaving.
- _____ Put valuables in a safe deposit box.
- _____ Remove all firearms from the home. Store these with a trusted relative or friend if you do not have the means to store them.
- _____ Leaving pets behind. Make arrangements to have a trusted friend care for them, or board them at a reputable clinic.
- _____ Don't boast about your travel plans before leaving. Talk about these things when you RETURN!
- _____ Leave an itinerary of your travel plans with a trusted relative or friend so you can be reached in the event of an emergency.
- _____ Unplug all small appliances.
- _____ If you have central air, set the cooling temperature at 80 degrees. Window air conditioners should be set on low and monitored by a relative or friend.
- _____ Leave blinds and curtains in their normal positions.
- _____ Pack your car/truck/van/camper the day of the trip, not the night before.
- _____ Lock all windows.

- If you are going on an extended vacation, consider shipping large bags to your destination in advance. For the return trip, mail bulky new purchases home, or ask merchants to do it for you.

OUT AND ABOUT

Your home is secured and you're packed. Now it's time to go. While you and your family are traveling, it's important to remember that tourists make tempting targets for thieves. Often lost or distracted, weighed down with bags, and carrying cameras, plane tickets, money, and other valuables, unsuspecting travelers can attract crime like a magnet. The best advice for you and your family is to do all you can to blend in with the crowd.

- Don't display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags, and other items that might draw attention.
- Check maps *before* you go out so you can tour confidently.
- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets at all times — no shortcuts.
- Always lock your car when it's parked, even if the stop is brief. Keep valuables out of sight, preferably locked in the trunk. Don't advertise that you're a tourist by leaving maps and guidebooks on the seat or dashboard — keep them in the glove compartment.

Traveling safely with your family also means sticking together and keeping an eye on your children at all times. Make sure they know where you're staying (name and address), and teach them what to do if they get lost or separated. You might want to agree on a meeting place, just in case. And by all means, make sure your kids know not to accept rides or favors from strangers.

Make your family vacation a memorable one for all the right reasons.



Crime Prevention Tips from

National Crime Prevention Council
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and

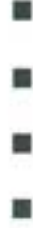
Madison Heights Police Department
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280 West Thirteen Mile Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071

The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign, sponsored by the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

FAMILY VACATION



FUN AND SAFETY



Planning a family vacation?

Whether your destination is Disney World, Denver, or Denmark, there are certain things you need to keep in mind. Making the trip fun and enjoyable for everyone is key; that's what it's all about. But just as important to the success of your trip will be steps you take to make it a safe one.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Preventing crime during family travel starts with making sure your home is protected while you're away. The key is to make it look like you never left:

- Keep shades and blinds in their normal positions.
- Stop mail and newspapers, or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.
- Put timers on several household lights so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
- Arrange to have grass mowed (or snow shoveled) while you're gone.
- Make sure all your door and window locks are in working order — and use them. Activate your home alarm (if you have one).

You might even leave a radio on — or put it on a timer. Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway overnight — anything that might suggest someone's home.

PACKING FOR PREVENTION

Preparing for a family trip requires a lot of planning. You need to decide where you're going, where you'll stay and how you'll get from one place to another. You also need to

decide what to take with you. Planning can decrease the chances of crime joining you on your journey. Some tips on what to take:

- Clean out your wallet or purse before you go; take only essential credit cards. Plan to use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash wherever possible.
- Carry your purse close to your body, or your wallet in an inside front pocket. Better yet, take a "fanny pack" or wear a money pouch under your clothes.
- Pack as lightly as possible. Lots of heavy, cumbersome bags will slow you down and make you more vulnerable to getting robbed.



- Expensive, designer luggage can draw unwanted attention to your belongings. Pack your things in inconspicuous bags.
- Keep a separate record of the contents of checked luggage. And keep anything of value such as medicine and jewelry in a carry-on that stays with you.