

DON'T FORGET BACK HOME!

When you are away from home, have a trusted friend, neighbor or relative take the following actions to keep your home from looking unoccupied:

- Park a car in your driveway.
- Visit your home at irregular intervals.
- Put trash out at your collection point.
- Mow your lawn when necessary.
- Shovel snow from your sidewalk and steps.
- Pick up your mail daily.
- Collect your daily newspaper.
- Remove all flyers, circulars, door-knob hangers and packages that may have been left at your door.
- Make a periodic inspection of the premises.

For additional information on safety for vacationers or other crime prevention programs, contact:

THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

(703) 792-7270



Additional Information Available:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration

<http://www.tsa.gov>

U.S. Department of State
Travel and Living Abroad

<http://www.state.gov/travel>

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR VACATIONERS



**Prince William County
Police Department**



PLANNING

Being away from home, either on vacation or a business trip does not mean that you have left crime behind. In fact, almost all types of personal and property crimes are highest in the warm months when people spend more time away from their homes.

The good news is that you can greatly reduce your chances of being a victim by using common sense and taking some basic steps to protect yourself, your family and your property.



TRAVEL TIPS

Avoid carrying excessive amounts of cash. Instead opt for travelers' checks or credit cards. They are accepted in most countries and offer peace of mind. Should you loose or misplace them, they can be replaced.



Purchase a good current map of your destination. Note the location of hospitals and police stations. If in a foreign country, note the location of the American Embassy or consulate.

If driving, plan your route carefully and travel on main roads. Have your car serviced prior to leaving. Never pick up hitchhikers.

When booking accommodations, ask about their security. Is there a 24-hour security staff? Are room safes available? What kinds of locks do the doors and windows have?



Use a luggage tag that has a flap over it to conceal your name and address. Using a business address is safer than using your home address.

Travel light; do not take too much jewelry. Keep your luggage in sight and in front of you at all times. When packing, be sure to make a list of the contents of each piece of luggage. If your bags are lost or stolen you will need to file an insurance claim that will list all of these items. Make two copies of the list, keep one on your person and leave the second at home.

When going through security checkpoints, do not put your personal property on the conveyor belt until it is necessary. Keep an eye on it until you have reclaimed it.