

CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Richard Eddington, Chief of Police
1454 Elmwood Ave., Evanston, Illinois 60201
911/EMERGENCY
847-866-5000/NON-EMERGENCY
311/Request City Services or Information
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/police/>



VACATION CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES



Summer is fastly approaching and many are preparing for a long-overdue vacation. Vacation is a time for relaxation and enjoyment, but it can also be the time for crime victimization if appropriate crime prevention measures aren't followed.

TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE THREAT OF FALLING VICTIM OF A CRIME WHILE AWAY, HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

- The #1 prevention tip is to make your house look “**LIVED IN**” when you’re away. Never let items pile up in the mailbox or on the porch. It sends the message that no one is home or watching the residence. Arrange with a trusted neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and garbage cans. They live in your neighborhood & know what looks suspicious in the area.
- Do **NOT** stop the mail or paper delivery. You never know who is taking the call on the other end.
- Turn the ringer down on the phone. A ringing phone alerts others that no one is home.
- Leave your window shades in a “normal” position, or have your “house-watcher” move the window shade positioning throughout your vacation or your time away from your home. **DO NOT CLOSE THE BLINDS.**
- Lock your valuables in a safe deposit box or fire safe. Document all valuables via videotape and place this and important serial numbers in a safe deposit box as well. Digital photos work great for this, also.
- Notify the police department and request a “**SPECIAL WATCH.**”
- Arrange for someone to maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in appearance.
- Take your garage door openers **OUT** of your vehicles. Remove important papers and documents with personal information on them. Have vehicles moved on occasion, so as to not be parked in one spot all the time.
- Make sure your burglar and fire alarms are in working condition. Test them with the alarm company and make sure your alarm company has an updated call list.
- Have your “house-watcher” turn on different lights throughout the house during each visit, including TVs and/or radios.
- Leave emergency contact information with the police and a trusted neighbor.
- Consider forming or joining a neighborhood watch program in your community. If interested, contact the Community Strategies Bureau at 847-866-5019. Additionally, consider joining a community list-serve or communication network.
- Sign up to receive the [Daily Crime Bulletin](#) at www.cityofevanston.org (in “Most Visited” area at bottom of home page or search for “crime reports” at top of home page)
- If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, PLEASE don’t hesitate to notify the police by calling the non-emergency number at 847-866-5000 or call 911 for emergencies.
- Don’t announce your absence on voicemails or any social media outlet, such as Twitter and Facebook. This often occurs when checking into a location out of town on a social media application via a mobile device.
- PLEASE close and lock your garage doors and any external doors and windows.

[FOR ADDITIONAL INFO., CONTACT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES BUREAU AT 847-866-5019](#)