

CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN



HOW TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME WHILE ON VACATION

Source: Florida Attorney General's Office

- Strive to make your home look as lived-in as possible while you're away.
- Don't broadcast your plans but do let your neighbors and local law enforcement know.
- Give a spare key to your neighbors and give them an emergency telephone number to reach you.
- Arrange to have your mail and newspapers either stopped or picked up daily.
- Have someone mow your yard or rake the leaves so your house looks lived-in.
- Use automatic timers to turn on a radio and lights at different intervals to hide the fact you aren't home.
- Turn down the ringer on the telephone. An unanswered telephone is a dead give-away.
- Be sure you don't announce your absence on your answering machine message.
- Leave your blinds like you normally would if you were home. Only close them all the way if that is what you would normally do.
- Be sure to close and lock the garage as well as any storage sheds, gates, etc.
- Engrave all your valuables with your driver's license number. If possible videotape the contents of your home. Be sure to keep the video and the list of valuables in a safety deposit box.
- Ask your neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you are leaving a vehicle parked outside, have the neighbor move it periodically so it looks as though you are home.
- Be sure someone knows your itinerary and your estimated time of arrival and return.
- If you get lost while traveling, ask directions of local law enforcement, not complete strangers.
- Be sure your vehicle is in good working condition and that you have taken enough money. Do not carry large amounts of cash, use credit cards and travelers' checks.
- Announcing your travel plans on social networks informs all of your contacts that you are away. It is recommended that you post travel pictures and information when you return.

St. Lucie County residents can contact the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Patrol Operations Division at 462-3281 or the Crime Prevention Unit at 871-5303 to request a close patrol of their home or business while away.

Need more information? Please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 772-871-5303.

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

"Raising the Standard...Through Community Partnerships"