



San Ramon Police Department Crime Prevention News

Keeping you in the know!

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HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The holiday season is a time for crimes of opportunity. Criminals look for the distracted, easy targets. Keep these tips in mind this season:

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

- Do not walk and text or use your phone, cell phone/smart phone thefts are EASY It is important to watch where you are going and be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't be distracted! If you are distracted; you won't see them coming to take your possessions.
- Don't leave packages in plain view in your vehicle – put them in your trunk, before you get to your location., or cover them in a SUV or mini van with a towel or blanket the same color as your interior.
- If you will not be home for deliveries, have your items delivered to a neighbor who will be home or to your office.
- Hold on to your money: Always carry your purse tucked tightly under your arm, or don't carry one at all. Put your money and only necessary cards in your front pants pocket where it harder for a bad guy to get at it.
- Don't park in secluded or dark areas of the parking lot. Always have your keys out and ready.
- Try not to be the last to leave the store. Leave when the stores are still open and there are plenty of other shoppers in the parking lot.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- When you are home, remember this home safety reminder: Approximately 50% of all burglars enter the house via unlocked or open doors and/or windows. Keep all doors, including your garage door, closed and locked.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL (full article on page 2)

- Get an automatic timer for the lights in your home.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and perhaps park a vehicle in your driveway.
- Have a neighbor or family member pickup newspaper and mail deliveries.

WHEN YOU ARE OUT FOR THE EVENING

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks and sounds like somebody is home.
- Lock doors and windows even if you leave for just a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.
- Don't forget to set your alarm every time you leave.



TO REPORT A CRIME

EMERGENCY

9-1-1

Non- Emergency

(925) 973-2779

Abandoned Vehicles

(925) 973-2700

Neighborhood Watch

(925) 973-2720

To report other miscellaneous complaints to the Police Department or other offices in the city try our website at :

<http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/police/online.htm>

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

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CITY WIDE-PROPERTY CRIME STATISTICS FOR July—October 2014

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL BY TYPE</u>
Stolen Vehicles	25
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	10
Auto Burglaries	23
Commercial Burglaries	30
Residential Burglaries	14
Grand/Petty Thefts	116

**Going away for the Holidays? Is your home ready?****An important reminder**

One of the first steps you can take is to fill out a Vacation House Check form on the City website www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/police/housemail.htm. The San Ramon Police Department will check your home while you're away. You can complete the form online, print it and either fax it, mail it or bring it to the police department.

Have a trusted neighbor pick up any mail and newspapers from the driveway. This person can also place your trash cans out and retrieve them on pickup days. The absence of trash cans out front on pickup days is a red flag to a thief that no one is home and that they have found an easy target for burglary. Neighbors are the best and it never hurts to have extra trusted eyes on your home in your absence.

Leave your house key only with a trusted person; never under the doormat, on top of the front door sill. The fake hide-a-key rocks look fake, and thieves will look for them. Any place you think that's perfect for hiding a key is also a place they've thought you'd leave a key and they'll look to find it. Disappoint them and don't hide anything on your property.

Leave a vehicle you're not taking on vacation in your driveway. That gives the appearance that someone is home. If you don't have a vehicle to leave, ask a neighbor if they could park one of their cars in your driveway while you're away. Regardless of whose vehicle is in the driveway, leave nothing inside. These criminals have come to "shop" in the neighborhood, **DO NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM** and they will think nothing of doing a "smash-and-grab" to get that laptop or GPS, or anything else you left in your vehicle. Take your garage door opener out of the car and leave it inside your home. That garage door opener is a key to your house and should never be left in your vehicle.

Taking these steps before going on vacation, or a weekend holiday, will help you sleep better while you're away and lessen the chances that your return from paradise isn't a return to a nightmare. Safe travels.

THE SAN RAMON POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER**IS PUBLISHED BY THE CRIME PREVENTION UNIT.****EDITOR: DARLENE KITTREDGE****PHONE (925) 973-2720 • FAX (925) 838-2925 EMAIL: DKITTREDGE@SANRAMON.CA.GOV****YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.****VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.SANRAMON.CA.GOV/POLICE**