

Geneva Police Department Crime Prevention Guide- Vacation Tips

Vacation is a time to relax; However, keep your common sense working

Around the House

- When going on vacation or out-of-town for any reason: Don't publicize vacations ahead of time. Burglars watch newspapers and social networks.
- Stop deliveries of newspapers and mail.
- An Authorization to hold mail card (PS8076) may be obtained from your mail carrier or picked up at your nearest Post Office. Or – have a friend pick them up while you are gone.
- Arrange to have the lawn mowed
- Leave information where you can be contacted in an emergency with a trusted neighbor and ask them to keep an eye on your house
- Give your house a lived-in appearance
- Put automatic timers on several lights and a radio. Set them so they will turn on and off at random times in different rooms, especially the bathroom
- Do not leave lights on 24 hours a day
- Leave drapes in a normal position to maintain a live-in appearance
- Turn the bell on the telephone off
- Have a neighbor park in your driveway or in front of your house when possible

On the Road

While you are on your vacation, you can greatly increase your protection by taking the following safety precautions:

- Carry travelers' checks instead of large amounts of cash
- Always carry wallets, purses and bags securely. Do not leave purses on chairs, under tables or on restroom hooks.

- Keep your cash, jewelry and valuables such as passports, cameras and airline tickets locked in your hotel safety deposit box or safe.
- Keep track of your keys
- Do not leave room keys lying around the swimming pool
- Never pick up hitchhikers
- Never leave your keys in an unattended car, even while running a quick errand or filling up for gas
- While driving, travel on main roads and always have a map in your possession
- Lock any packages, cameras, clothing or other valuables in the trunk when you leave your car
- At night, park your car in a well-light area. Remember to lock doors and rollup all windows
- Be wary of solicitors
- Travel in pairs or groups if possible
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Should you see anything suspicious call 9-1-1.
- Always lock your hotel room door, even if just going for ice. Intruders much prefer to walk in rather than crash in.