



- Courtesy of the Edmonton Police Service (Northeast Division Newsletter December 2011)

Holiday home security suggestions

It is also a time when the house is full of valuable items such as gifts, food and liquor. Because of this, an increase in break and enters, with criminals targeting homes when they are at their most vulnerable, usually occurs.

To avoid being a victim of festive theft, take a look at these tips for protecting your home.

Safe storage

With more luxury items in the home than any other month of the year, burglars and opportunistic thieves take to residential areas to prey on unsuspecting households and one of the first things they will look for is items under the Christmas tree. Try to avoid displaying gifts here and keep all items hidden in a bedroom or basement until Christmas Eve as this can make your home an obvious target.

Box disposal

Once all the gifts have been opened, steer clear of leaving the empty boxes and packaging in plain sight. This acts as a glaring advertisement to thieves and shows them all the valuable items you now have in your home. Post-Christmas can be just as bad for break and enters, so make sure you dispose of packaging responsibly by tearing it up, and putting it out just before scheduled waste/recycling collection.

Signs of life

Criminals will be on the lookout for homes that look empty during the holidays, so make sure there are signs of life about your household. If you are out for a night or perhaps going away for a few days, make it look like you are in by keeping lights on, or installing automatic timer-switches to come on at intervals. If you are away for an extended period, have a friend or family member check on you house daily or every second day.

Vehicle security

Along with protecting your home it is just as important to ensure that you keep your vehicle and its contents safe. Do not leave anything of value in your vehicle (purse, money, gifts, etc). If you do have to leave valuables in your vehicle, for example when going to multiple stores on the same shopping trip, make sure to lock items in your trunk, or make them as hidden as possible. When putting items into your vehicle, take a look around to see if anyone is watching you, and possibly targeting your vehicle, try to park in well-lit areas.