



Crime Prevention Tips

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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J. Grayson Robinson, SHERIFF

Community
Resource
Unit

Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,
professionalism and community spirit.

Going on Vacation? (Part 1)

An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this checklist of tips to help safeguard your home while you're away.

- Have good locks on all doors and windows and USE THEM!
- Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and telephone numbers with a neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
- Arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Teenagers old enough to stay at home alone while the parents are on vacation often innocently invite just a few friends over for a barbeque, etc. But then the few friends invite a few more of their friends and so on it goes, until there are 50-100 kids at your house. This is where we get called in on reports of under age drinking, thefts of valuables and stolen cars. Make sure your teenager is discreet on who he or she invites over.
- Arrange for someone to maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Use timers to turn lights, a radio or the television on and off.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you're home.
- Secure storage sheds attic entrances and gates.
- Have a written record of all your important serial numbers, credit card numbers, etc. and keep them in a secure place, like a safe or safety deposit box.
- Be sure the garage doors are locked and electric door openers are unplugged. Vehicles in your garage should also be locked and the keys stored in a safe and discrete location.
- Be careful about who you tell of your vacation plans or who may be listening when you are discussing the plans with someone else. This includes being aware of who may be watching as you load your luggage into the car.

If you have any questions, contact Deputy Amir Stephen at (720) 874-3752, e-mail astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us, or contact Deputy Brian McKnight at (720) 874-3750, e-mail bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us.

**To report a crime, call the
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at
(303)-795-4711 or 911 for emergencies**