

GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS RECOMMENDED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the holiday season approaches, it's a good time to remember these safety tips -- both now and all-year long:

- Keep all doors and windows closed and locked.
- Secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or a wooden dowel rod in the track.
- Lock the door to an attached garage.
- Make your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, to help deter criminals.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away.
- Keep landscaping trimmed away from entrances and walkways.
- Organize or join a Neighborhood Watch program.
- Get a free home security check from a Crime Prevention Officer.
- Keep an inventory of your property.
- Store ladders, tools and any other outside objects in a locked shed or garage.
- Make sure the home's address is visible for police, firemen and paramedics.

Package theft prevention:

- Signatures: Require a signature upon delivery. If you can't be home, consider sending your item to a friend's home, if they can be available to sign.
- Workplace Delivery: Have the item delivered to your workplace, if permitted.
- Pick Up Packages: Some vendors now have package pick-up locations; you have to go there to get your item but it is securely stored. Select in-store pickup versus shipping. You may save on shipping fees by picking up the item yourself! You also can have the package delivered or held at a carrier location.
- Track Deliveries: Closely track your deliveries. Know exactly which day and around what time it'll arrive. Many carriers offer text and e-mail notifications.
- High Tech Monitoring: Use a wireless door monitor that allows you to see your porch. Many services include a wi-fi-enabled camera and motion sensors so you can record video of any activity and speak remotely to visitors at your door.
- Provide Delivery Instructions: Asking a driver put your package in a more inconspicuous location around your home may reduce the likelihood of it being seen and stolen.
- Ask a Neighbor: Keep an eye on your neighbor's home or ask a neighbor to watch for your deliveries. If you're acquainted enough, you could hold the package in your home; or notify your neighbor their package has arrived if you have their phone number or e-mail.

Sources: <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/category/crime-prevention/>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/7-tips-to-prevent-holiday-package-theft/>