



Proteqtus

Security and Safety Tips



Proteqtus has put together a few security and safety tips to avoid risk. Information put together in this document has been collected from various sources and security experts.

Protecting Your Home

In many cases of home burglaries, thieves enter the house through a door or window that was left unlocked. The fact is, thieves are “lazy,” and many burglaries can be prevented by using simple strategies to deter them from attempting to enter your home. Keep in mind that there’s more at stake than your possessions — a significant number of violent crimes that occur in the home are committed during household burglaries. Following are some tips on how to protect your home and your family from burglars.

- Lock all doors and windows, including your garage door, when you leave the house and while sleeping.
- Install a dead-bolt and/or a secondary locking system on doors that lead outside. Using a lock that can only be operated from the inside is an extra security measure.
- Remember that patio doors with glass panels can be especially vulnerable. Consider installing double-cylinder locks, where you need a key to unlock both sides, so that a burglar can’t enter your home simply by breaking the glass next to the lock. Also, insert a board at the bottom of the door, to prevent the door from sliding.
- Be suspicious of anyone who asks to enter your home for any type of “maintenance” reason. There are numerous cases of impersonating electricians or gas line inspectors who turn out to be dangerous. Always demand to see an official company ID.
- Install peepholes or wide-angle viewers in your doors.
- Replace burned out light bulbs quickly. Thieves like homes with inadequate lighting. Consider incorporating lighting into your landscaping.
- Keep trees and shrubs around doorways, windows and porches trimmed. The bushes that provide privacy also give burglars a place to hide. Dense shrubs can even make for a makeshift ladder, helping a thief into your home through a window.
- Get involved in a neighborhood watch group. Local police departments can provide you with information on how to establish a watch group in your neighborhood.
- Consider installing an alarm system.

While You’re Away

- Use random access timers that automatically change what time your lights go on and off each night. Lighting patterns that vary appear more natural.
- Ask a neighbor to park his or her car in your driveway.
- Keep expensive items out of view from the yard or the street.
- Have your mail and newspapers picked up by a neighbor or held at the post office.
- Ask your neighbors to call the police if they notice any suspicious activity. Leave a phone number where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

Personal Safety

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Robbery can happen at any time. It is important to always be aware of your surroundings but to also know how to protect yourself should you ever be put into a robbery situation.

Always Protect Yourself

- Walk with your head up, make eye contact with others, have confidence and move at a steady pace.
- Stay in well-lit, heavily traveled areas. Avoid alleys, dark parking lots or secluded areas.
- If you wear headphones while walking, keep the volume low so you can hear other noises.
- Avoid texting and walking as your attention is not on where you are going or who is coming toward you.
- Don't walk alone at night. Walk in groups as there is always safety in numbers.
- If you are going to a particular destination, let someone know you are on your way and approximately what time you will arrive.
- If you are carrying a wallet, keep it in your purse or bag and carry it close to your body. Do not leave personal items unattended at any time.
- Vary your route. Take a different path so you don't become predictable.

What If I Get Robbed?

- Don't panic. Stay calm and breathe and just let the robber have whatever they want. Your personal safety is worth more than anything you may have on your person.
- Remember what the robber looks like. Look for distinguishing marks, scars and tattoos. Compare your height and weight to that of the attacker.
- If the aggressor states they have a weapon, assume this is true and that they may use it. Fully cooperate with their instructions.
- If you see someone else getting robbed, report it to the police immediately, when it is safe for you to do so.

After a Robbery

- Watch the direction in which the attacker flees. If they are in a vehicle, get the color, make, model and license plate number.
- Notify the police as soon as you can and give them all of the characteristics of the attacker. If your wallet was stolen, notify your bank and credit card companies.
- Go to a safe place. If you are not near your destination, go to a public place for help. If you are near your destination, get there and lock the doors.
- If there are witnesses, ask them to wait for the police, or obtain their contact information.

Safety while shopping

In Stores and Malls

Personal safety is an issue that concerns everyone. To help you take charge of your own safety in malls and parking areas, remember these safety tips. And don't hesitate to report any suspicious people and/or situations to mall security officers immediately. They're there to help you.

In Parking Areas

- Make a mental note of where you parked your vehicle.
- Never park in an isolated area.



- Park in a well-lit area as close as possible to mall entrances.
- Never leave valuable packages in your vehicle.
- Store your packages in the trunk of your car.
- Know your vehicle's license plate number.
- When leaving your vehicle, make sure all doors are locked and windows closed.
- Have your keys ready when returning to your vehicle.
- Only leave your ignition key with a valet parking attendant.
- When walking to or from your vehicle, avoid dark areas where criminals might hide.
- If you have car trouble, remain in your car and use a cell phone to call for assistance, or return to the mall and notify security.

As You Shop

- Walk confidently and be alert.
- Keep shopping bags in your sight at all times.
- Don't burden yourself with too many bags or packages.
- Don't display large sums of cash.
- Use checks or credit cards whenever possible.
- Never leave your credit card on a store counter.
- Carry your handbag or purse close to your body with the clasp or flap toward you.
- Never leave your purse on a store counter, on the floor in a restroom or in a dressing room.
- Don't carry your wallet in your back pocket.
- Shop with friends whenever possible.
- Report suspicious people or situations to mall security.
- Keep your kids in sight, don't leave them unattended to. (there has been reports of kids been kidnapped in malls while parents are shopping.)

Hijacking

Beware of Dangerous Situations

Carjacking is a serious, traumatic and often violent form of vehicle theft. It is a crime of opportunity that threatens an individual's personal safety. In some cases, the incident can escalate far beyond the theft of your vehicle. It is important to appear confident and be aware of your surroundings at all times, especially when driving at reduced speeds and stopping or parking at:

- Intersections controlled by stoplights or signs.
- Garages and commuter parking areas, shopping malls and grocery stores.
- Self-service gas stations and car washes.
- Drive-through banks.
- Residential driveways and streets where people often get into and out of cars.
- Freeway exits and entry ramps.

Follow Your Instincts and React if You Feel You are in Danger...

- Stay as calm as possible.
- Never argue if the carjacker threatens you with a weapon – give up your car.
- Get away from the area as quickly as possible.
- If you can not drive away, draw attention to yourself – honk your horn or yell.

- Take notice of the carjacker's physical appearance.
- Immediately report the crime to the police.

Help Reduce Your Risk with the Following Precautions:

- Keep all doors locked and windows up when driving.
- Keep your valuables out of view.
- Service your vehicle regularly to ensure it is working properly.
- Do not drive alone in remote or unfamiliar areas.
- Travel on main roads as much as possible.
- Drive on well-lit streets at night.
- When stopped in traffic, leave enough space between vehicles to allow you to move forward.
- Do not park next to high-profile vehicles, such as vans, that could conceal a suspect.
- When walking to your car have keys in hand, and enter your vehicle quickly.
- If you feel you are being followed by another vehicle, do not drive home.
- Do not pull over if a suspicious driver motions you to do so.
- If you are involved in a minor accident or think your car was hit intentionally, motion the other driver to follow you to the nearest police station or open business to exchange information.
- If you are in an accident, take your keys and purse or wallet with you when you get out of the car.

Vehicle Security

Without opportunity, there is no crime. This is certainly true when it comes to the theft of vehicles and their contents. Thefts usually occur because owners make it far too easy for the thief. Precautions can be taken to help prevent both types of thefts.

Alarms and clubs will not always prevent crime, but will often deter the thief. The thief will look for an easier car to steal.

Did You Know?

In the United States a vehicle is stolen an average of every 21 minutes. Not only does auto theft cost the victim time and money, but it costs society, because it drives insurance premiums up and many times stolen vehicles are used to commit other crimes.

In South Africa, a report was posted on Wheels24 revealing the following statistics:

Quick vehicle crime facts - Number of household crime incidents

Theft of motor vehicles - 42 703

Theft out of motor vehicle (i.e stolen items from vehicles) - 129 880

Motor vehicle vandalism/deliberate damage of vehicles - 31 396

Households that report vehicle crime - 94%

Vehicle related crime accounts for about **14.7% of all household crime.**

Prevent Theft from Your Vehicle

- Never leave valuables on your seat, the floor or the dashboard. Use the trunk and glove compartment for storage.
- Remove money, cell phones, portable electronic devices and CDs from view.
- Don't leave registration or insurance papers in the vehicle. It makes your vehicle easier to sell, and it gives the thief your home address.
- Take valuables such as checkbooks and credit cards with you or leave them at home.
- Don't leave luggage on the luggage rack. This is an easy target.
- Cover valuables stored in the rear of SUVs and trucks.

Help Prevent Vehicle Theft

- Take your keys. Nearly 20 percent of all vehicles stolen have the keys in them.
- Lock your car. Approximately 50 percent of all vehicles stolen are left unlocked.
- Don't leave your running car unattended.
- Park in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- When possible, park in a lot that has an attendant.
- Keep all of your doors locked at all times.
- Roll your windows up completely.
- Keep your sunroof closed.
- Use an audible alarm or ignition kill switch. A steering-wheel locking device is also a strong deterrent.



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