



Crime Prevention Tips

Unfortunately, crime is a part of our society. Many criminals prey on those who are most vulnerable and do not take steps to protect themselves or their property. Rockdale is a very safe community and we want you to be safe and feel safe in Rockdale and elsewhere. By taking the following steps, you can reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime.

Wherever you are:

- When not at home, stay alert and aware of your surroundings
- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going
- Trust your instincts—if you don't feel safe in an area, your best move is to leave there
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. If something looks suspicious, report it to the Police Department.



When walking or jogging:

- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets
- Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots or alleys
- Don't flash large amounts of cash or other tempting targets like expensive jewelry or clothing
- Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps
- Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, not in a back pocket.
- Don't wear shoes or clothing that restrict your movements
- Have your car or house key in hand before you reach the door
- If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street. Walk towards an open store, restaurant, or lighted house. If you're scared, yell for help.

When in the car:

- Keep your car in good running condition.
- Always roll up the windows, lock car doors, and never leave valuables in plain view
- If you think someone is following you, don't head home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, gas station, or other open business to get help.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- Never leave your car running while unattended

If someone tries to rob you:

- Don't resist. Your life isn't worth resisting.

- Be observant. Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from being victims.

Protect Your Home:

- Check to make sure that the locks on your doors and windows work
- Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed, one inch throw, dead bolt lock. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough
- Sliding glass doors can offer easy access if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by installing commercially available locks or placing a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door.
- Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust
- When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks
- Keep the garage door closed and locked and always lock the connecting door to your home
- Don't leave an extra key under the doormat
- All outside doors should be metal, metal clad or solid wood
- If your doors don't fit snugly in their frames, install weather stripping around them
- Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains are easily broken and offer a false sense of security.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine that says "I'm not home right now." Instead, have the answering machine say "I'm not available right now."



Check around your house:

- Install outside lights and keep them on at night
- Keep your yard clean—prune back shrubbery so it doesn't hide doors or windows.
- Clearly display your house number so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly
- Create the illusion that you're home by setting some timers that will turn your lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening
- Don't leave ladders or tools outside that a burglar could use to gain entry
- Be suspicious of strangers who appear out of place or who ask about your schedule or plans



- Be aware of telephone calls with no apparent purpose and hang-up calls. This can be a ploy used by criminals to identify target homes.

Increase Your Protection Against Identity Theft:

- Don't carry your Social Security Number in your wallet or write your Social Security number on a check. Give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary.
- Always shred your charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks and bank statements, expired charge cards that you're discarding and credit offers you get in the mail
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox
- Be careful when on the Internet. The Internet can give you access to information, entertainment, financial offers, and countless other services but at the same time, it can leave you vulnerable to online scammers, identity thieves and more.
- Place passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number or your phone number, a series of consecutive numbers, or a single word that would appear in a dictionary. Combinations of letters, numbers, and special characters make the strongest passwords.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you've initiated the contact and are sure you know who you're dealing with. Identity thieves are clever, and may pose as representatives of banks, Internet service providers, and even government agencies to get people to reveal their Social Security number, mother's maiden name, account numbers, and other identifying information.



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