



FSA – Keeping You Safe

How to Keep Your Home Safe While Traveling This Holiday Season

With the holiday season approaching, AAA Travel projects about 46.3 million Americans will leave their homes unoccupied, the highest volume for the holiday since 2007. Keeping your home safe is important, regardless of what time of year you travel. However, reports have shown an annual spike in home break-ins and stolen delivery packages during the Thanksgiving through New Year's holidays. To protect your home and valuables during this holiday season, refrain from posting holiday travel plans and pictures on the internet. Most importantly, never leave your keys hidden outside; burglars are aware of some of the best hiding places. We also encourage you to follow these tips from the [National Crime Prevention Council](#):

- Make sure your house appears “lived-in” when you are away. Lock all doors and windows, set household lights (inside and out) on timers.
- Trim your hedges and bushes so thieves cannot have a place to hide out.
- Have a neighbor park a car in your driveway to make it appear as if someone is home.
- Have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers while you are away or have them held at the post office.
- Invest in an alarm. An alarm system controls access points to your home and lets you know if someone has invaded your space.

For more tips, please visit the [Florida Sheriffs Association's Crime Prevention Tips](#).