

Common Sense Safety Tips

Please make use of these common sense tips to protect yourself, your home and your valuables.

Did you know...

The greatest reason to have a home alarm system is not burglary, but fire protection. Make sure your smoke detectors work!

Also, thousands of people are killed by the flu or complications each year. Get your flu shot!

Take charge of your safety!

These common safety rules apply to all of us. Our neighborhood is apparently being targeted by criminal drifters because of our student residents who generally tend to be relatively trusting.

Many Home Park crimes are crimes of opportunity - unlocked doors, open windows, purses left on the porch...

SO...

DON'T leave your doors standing open or

DON'T leave your car unlocked at any time (parked or driving).

DON'T leave purses, book bags, briefcases, laptops, CD players, etc. in your car.

DON'T leave your windows open or unlocked when you're not home.

DON'T invite strangers into your home for any reason.

DON'T leave your purse unattended in the grocery store cart.

DON'T shop alone, or visit the ATM late at night, or in poorly lit areas.

DON'T let anyone force you into a car.

DON'T be shy or embarrassed about calling the police or yelling for help.

DON'T let your mail/newspapers pile up.

DON'T call your landlord until AFTER you call 911.

On moving day...

at least one person should stay at your home (both your old and new homes) at all times when you go pick up another load. Too many times people have returned from a second trip to find that someone came in while they were gone and took everything he could carry. Some thieves watch neighborhoods for signs someone is moving in or out...

A helpful hint...

If you do like your windows open for air, get some cut-off broom sticks or similar braces to put in the tops of the windows so they can't be opened more than a few inches. Fire safety code requires a window that can be opened in each room for escape so the broomstick method is best. If your windows won't open at all, call your landlord.

Now, take charge!

So much for the "don't" list - now for a list of proactive steps you can take:

DO keep your yard cut and bushes trimmed away from windows and porches. (Please offer to help your elderly neighbors with theirs, too.)

DO get up to check if your dog or neighbor's dog goes ballistic.

DO keep your electronics away from windows or where they are easily seen from a window or door.

DO get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other.

DO ask your landlord when the locks were last changed and who has keys.

DO join our Crime Watch Program on your street.
DO share information with your friends and neighbors.
DO greet everyone you meet on the street. It builds neighborhood and lets the ne'er-do-wells know we're watching.
DO get renter's insurance just in case (it's cheaper than replacing your computer, microwave, stereo...)

And the most important thing you can do:

CALL THE POLICE (9-1-1) IMMEDIATELY FOR EVERY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY. We can't emphasize enough that even if something seems trivial, please file a report so everything so APD knows we have a problem. You can always apologize later if you need to, but no one wants to hear their neighbor was hurt, and nobody did anything to help. PLEASE REPORT EVERY CRIME. The squeaky wheel gets the grease (OK, it's a cliché) - if we don't report our crimes, nobody knows we have any!

Police Department information

The Atlanta Police Department makes general information available on their website at www.atlantapd.org

Georgia Tech also has crime stats and other info on their website at www.police.gatech.edu.