

If A Stranger Comes to the Door, Beware

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. And it's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody—except criminals.



Rancho Cordova Police Department
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

Holiday Safety



www.RanchoCordovaPD.com

www.SacSheriff.com

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime.

Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts. Stores, malls and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers. People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.

If You're Traveling

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or friend to watch your home, collect the mail and newspaper, and park in your driveway from time to time.

If You're Out for the Evening

- Turn on lights and radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

If You're Shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lit space, and be sure to lock the vehicle, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

