

Top 10 Crime Prevention Tips For Senior Citizens

1. Be sure the locking hardware on your home is sufficient, and works properly.
 - Door lock types vary. Ask a professional which type is appropriate for your home.
 - Screws securing strike plates should be replaced with ones long enough to grab framing wood
 - Horizontal track bars should be used on sliding doors
 - Window hardware should be replaced with security hardware or supplemented with vertical track bars
 - Peep holes should be installed, and should be positioned so you can see out of them without obstructions

2. If you have a security system on your home, make sure it works properly and use it regularly.
 - Even when you're out during the day
 - Battery back-ups will keep the system working even when power is lost
 - Cellular back-up maintain a connection to a monitoring station even when phone lines are out

3. Don't leave valuables in plain sight or in easily predictable locations within your home.
 - Not on the dresser top
 - Don't leave expensive items in jewelry boxes
 - Not in your sock or underwear drawer

4. Install, maintain, and use proper lighting to deter nighttime crime
 - Use exterior lighting over all entrances
 - Mount the lighting high enough to prevent tampering
 - Use timers and light sensors- don't rely on turning lights on manually every night
 - Place interior lights on timers so your home looks occupied

5. Maintain foliage according to the 3'/7' rule for better visibility- not higher than 3' or lower than 7'
 - Especially near entrances
 - Especially near walkways to home

6. Remember that stranger safety still applies.
 - Don't let strangers talk their way into your home
 - Don't let anyone draw you out of your home
 - Ask for ID or credentials from utility workers
 - Did you ask for assistance from this utility or contractor? Why are they there?

7. Carry your cell phone with you all the time
 - Turn your location to "ON" and keep the power turned on
 - Charge it nightly
 - Have a listing in your address book for ICE- In Case of Emergency

8. Protect your money.
 - Watch for scams and fraud
 - Know where your money is
 - Check your credit report annually
 - There is no "Nigerian Money", "foreign lottery", or "lost inheritance"

9. Don't flaunt valuables

- a. Wearing jewelry in public may be "advertising" to criminals
- b. Leaving valuables in cars leaves them open to thieves

10. Be alert to your surroundings.

- Situational awareness is important in keeping yourself safe. Always know what's going on around you
- Involve neighbors, friends, and Neighborhood Watch
- Partner with a friend for a daily mutual check-in