

## AWAY FROM HOME

- Stop all mail and newspapers deliveries.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up flyers or other publications.
- Do not leave a message on your answering machine, or post on social media that you are on vacation.
- Turn on inside lights, (timers are inexpensive) to create the impression that you're home.
- Have someone mow your lawn while you're gone.

## OTHER PRECAUTIONS FOR A SAFE SUMMER

- Lock your bikes, even if you are going to be away for only a few moments.
- Be aware of your surroundings when you walk, jog, or bike.
- Keep an eye on all of your things while shopping or attending events.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with them.
- If a utility representative comes to your house request identification. Call the company for verification.

## ON THE ROAD

- Keep your belongings secure - Purses closed, backpacks zipped, and wallets in your front pocket. Do not hang your purse or backpack on the back of your chair in a restaurant.
- When visiting a pool or the beach, carry necessary items in a small bag (small amount of cash, water bottle, identification, etc).
- Lock suitcases so they can't be used to carry your property out of your room.
- Do not leave jewelry, cameras, or other expensive items laying around your room. Use the hotel safe to store your valuables and extra cash.



**If you see something suspicious,  
text the keyword  
"SPPD" and your tip to 847-411.**

This publication can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as, Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer disk. Requests can be made by calling 727-893-7345 (Voice) or 711 for the Florida Relay Service or email the ADA Coordinator at [lendel.bright@stpete.org](mailto:lendel.bright@stpete.org). Please allow 72 hours for your request to be processed.

# SUMMER SAFETY TIPS



**Information Provided By:  
St. Petersburg Police  
Community Awareness  
Division  
727-893-7128  
[police.stpete.org](http://police.stpete.org)**

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# TIPS ON HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY DURING THE SUMMER

## STAYING SAFE THIS SUMMER

Theft is a crime of opportunity. During the summer months would-be thieves are on the look-out for items that can be easily taken. Unlocked doors, open windows, and open garage doors all provide temptation to steal valuables like bikes, packages, cell phones, purses that have been left in plain view.

## PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE

- Park in secure, well-lit locations near pedestrians. Avoid isolated areas.
- Roll up all windows and lock all doors.
- Activate your vehicle alarm system.
- Install anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locking devices.
- Place all personal property and electronics in the trunk.
- Do not leave valuables such as purses, wallets, etc. in unlocked vehicles while paying for gas or when running quick errands such as going inside the post office.
- Take your garage door opener with you when leaving your vehicle - If someone steals it, then they can open your garage and access your home.

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME

- When you are away from home, keep the doors and windows locked, even if you are only leaving for a few minutes.
- If you sleep on the second floor of your home, keep all first floor doors and windows closed and locked.
- Sliding glass doors offer easy access to burglars if they are not properly secured. Secure them by putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door, or by installing commercially available locks.
- Do not leave your garage door open.
- If you go outside to do yardwork, lock the door behind you. A criminal can sneak in while you are distracted. Take your house keys with you out into the yard.
- Make sure that you lock all of your garden tools, power tools, lawnmowers, and ladders.
- Install lighting, such as motion lights or dusk to dawn detector lights, on your home's exterior.
- Use timers to light your home inside and outside.
- Trim shrubbery around your home to eliminate hiding places.

## PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN

- Make sure children wear helmets and other safety gear when biking, skating and skateboarding.
- Establish house rules for use of the computer, especially the internet. Make sure the child knows never to give out personal information on the computer.
- Require children to check in with a parent or trusted contact person before leaving the house and upon returning home.
- Know the route children will be taking to and from a given location. Remind them never to take shortcuts or deviate from the route agreed upon.
- Teach your children never to talk to anyone they don't know.
- Teach your children to travel in groups.
- Don't let your children and valuables out of your sight at community pools and parks.