Protect Yourself Against Crime

Follow these practical precautions to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of crime.

On the Street
› Never walk in unpopulated areas alone, especially at night. There is safety in numbers.
› Avoid high crime areas or take a taxi instead of walking.
› Always be alert and confident. Walk with confidence. Don’t talk on your phone.
› If you need to ask directions, go into a store. Don’t ask people on the street.
› Do not show off expensive jewelry or other belongings.
› When going to your car, have your keys in your hand so you won’t get distracted looking for them. Check passenger seats before you enter the car.
› If you are mugged, try to remain calm and cooperate. Only use force if you are physically attacked and then only enough force to fend off your attacker.

At Home
› Burglars look for unoccupied houses, so make sure your house looks occupied.
› Leave lights on or use electric timers when you are out of the house.
› Cancel mail and newspaper deliveries when you are away.
› Always lock your windows and doors. Install deadbolts on exterior doors.
› Consider installing an alarm system.
› Install exterior lighting.
› Trim trees and shrubs so intruders can’t use them to hide.
› Store bicycles, mowers and other equipment out of sight.
› Use a safety deposit box at a bank to store irreplaceable valuables when you are away.
› If you are confronted by a burglar, remain calm and cooperate. Try to leave the house and call police. Only use force if you are physically attacked and then only enough force to fend off your attacker.

Local Resources
Many communities offer self defense and crime prevention classes. Also, many local police departments offer consultations and tips for making your home more secure.

Additional Information
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