



Senior Safety Tips

Keep Yourself Safe

At Home

- Never open your door until you are sure of the visitor's identity. Install and use a peephole.
- Never let a stranger into your home. If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call for them.
- Do not hide extra house keys under a door mat or in other obvious spots.
- Beware of friendly strangers who tell you they found money and want to share it.
- Get to know your neighbors and keep their telephone numbers handy for emergencies.
- Learn more [home safety tips](#).

While You Are Out

- Use the buddy system. Travel and shop with friends whenever possible.
- Do not display large sums of cash.
- Never carry a wallet in your back pocket. Place it inside a jacket pocket, or in a front pants pocket.
- Carry your purse close to you, don't dangle it from your arm.
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or unattended.
- Do not leave a message on your answering machine saying you are away.
- Be observant.

In Your Car

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- If your car breaks down, pull to the right as far as possible, raise the hood, and wait inside the car for help. Do not get out of the car or roll down the window until the police arrive.
- Have your keys in your hands as you approach your vehicle.
- Plan your route.

Banking

- Never withdraw money from your bank account for someone else.
- Store your valuables in a safe deposit box.
- Never give your money to someone who calls and identifies themselves as a bank official. A bank will never ask you to withdraw your money.
- Don't carry more cash than is necessary.

- Many criminals know exactly when government checks arrive. Avoid being a target by using Direct Deposit, which sends your money directly from the government to the bank of your choice.