



# Fighting Back Institute

*Making A Difference...One Life at a Time*



## Vacation Safety

Vacation is a time for relaxation and fun. It can also open the window of opportunity for a predator in your area if the appropriate measures are overlooked. While you are on vacation, be sure to take the proper protective actions to ensure the safety of your home while you are away.

Opportunists prey on our enthusiasm and excitement about leaving our home for an extended period, as we are often so wrapped up in making plans for fun we neglect to secure our home and take precautions so we don't leave subtle clues we are away.

Some vacation safety tips appear below.

## Defensive Countermeasures

### Before Leaving, Secure Your Residence

Have good locks on all doors and windows and double check them before you leave.

Ask a neighbor to watch your home while you are gone. Leave as much information about your vacation with them as possible, including emergency contact information in case something happens.

Arrange for a neighbor or family member to gather your mail and newspaper deliveries.

Use plug-in timers to turn lights on and off to simulate that the house is being used.

Create the illusion that someone is home. For example, attach a television or radio to a timer to occasionally turn on and off.

Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway if you will be taking your vehicle with you. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would.

Arrange for someone to mow your lawn and maintain the yard should you be gone for a long period of time. During winter, make arrangements to have your snow shoveled.

### While On Your Trip

- Trust your instincts and speak up if you think or feel something is dangerous.
- Confirm your reservations before leaving home.
- Keep a record of all traveler's check numbers and your credit card numbers in a safe place. Have a record of all of the numbers to your credit card companies in case they become lost or stolen.
- Use the "Lock" and "Unlock" feature on your bank and/or credit card accounts.



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- Consider a security service, such as Lifelock, to monitor your accounts.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. If you must carry large sums, do not display large sums of money openly to others.
- Be aware of your surroundings and don't advertise your travel plans to strangers.
- Do not carry your airplane tickets or passport in open view. Secure these important documents in a safe place.
- Females - If you carry these in a purse, place your purse across your body rather than just over your shoulder.
- Males - Carry these documents in a safe container or in the front pocket of your pants instead of the back pocket.



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