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SAFETY TIPS

In the Car

- > Always lock your car and roll up the windows
- > Park in a busy, well-lit area
- > Never leave personal items visible in the car, such as wallets, cell phones, and iPods. Take them with you or store them in the glove box
- > When approaching your vehicle, look for any activity around it. If you see someone tampering with your car, seek help immediately. DO NOT approach them alone
- > If you find your car has been broken into, do not touch anything; it is almost impossible for police to investigate if you have tampered with the crime scene

At Home

- > Identifying your home is very important. Make sure your street number is clearly displayed so that responding emergency services can easily find your home
- > Thieves do not like being visible. Sufficient bright light around your home may deter would-be thieves
- > Landscape with security in mind – avoid creating hiding places when you place trees, shrubs, plants and furniture
- > Keep your garage as safe as you keep your home. Ensure that all doors into the garage are secure and locked at all times
- > Lock yard tools, axes, hammers and shovels away in your shed or garage; they are effective tools thieves can use to break into your home
- > Lock ladders inside or secure them to a non-moveable object to prevent thieves using them to gain entry to the second floor
- > Exterior doors should be solid core; it is advisable to avoid doors with wood or glass panels. All doors should have a secure fit with a solid frame

- > Ensure that you know and control who has keys to your home
- > Equip all of your windows with locks that are in working order
- > Install at least one smoke detector on each floor. Test them twice a year and change the batteries regularly to ensure they work properly in an emergency
- > Plan fire escape routes with your family and practice drills

Travelling

- > When you go away, cancel all deliveries; a pile of newspapers and other deliverables is a sure sign of an empty home
- > Careful of where you discuss your travel plans
- > Use timers on your lights to give the impression that someone is home
- > Arrange for yard work, snow removal
- > Turn your ringers down on your phone
- > Unplug your electric garage door opener
- > Keep your blinds, window covers the same way as when you are at home
- > Arrange for a house sitter to visit and provide them with contact phone numbers
- > Do a thorough walk around the interior and exterior of your home before leaving
- > Do not carry large amounts of cash
- > Keep cash, traveller's cheques, cameras and other valuables out of sight

For further tips, visit

www.safecanada.ca

www.safetyinfo.ca