Use secure locks on doors and windows. Lock the door even if you leave for a brief time.

Use a deadbolt in addition to a key in your doorknob lock.

Never open the door to a stranger.

Leave extra keys with a trusted neighbor – not in the mailbox or under the doormat.

Install good exterior lighting. Burglars are likely to avoid a space where they can be easily seen.

Keep shrubs and landscaping trimmed below window height. Don’t create a hiding place.

Trim branches that can be climbed to reach upper-floor windows.

Secure sliding glass doors and windows with a broomstick or metal bar.

Don’t leave tools exposed in an unlocked garage or shed. A burglar could use them to enter your home.

Be sure door hinges cannot be removed from the outside.

Store ladders inside.

Don’t give strangers information over the phone. Report suspicious calls and repeated wrong numbers to the police and phone company.

Report broken streetlights.

Record your credit card numbers and serial numbers of valuable documents and store them in a safe place or a safe-deposit box. Do the same with small valuables such as jewelry.

Keep emergency numbers on your cell and near your landline.

If you are in the backyard, upstairs or basement, keep the front door locked, day or night.

Close and lock all garage doors.

Those living alone should consider listing only their last name and first initial on mailboxes or in directories.

Photograph your valuables in their locations.
around your home and make a list of the make, model and serial numbers. Store copies of this for insurance claims in a safe deposit box or with a relative, not on a computer, which can be stolen.

- Permanently mark your personal property with your name or a number (not your Social Security number). This enables it to be identified as your property, deterring burglars who would have trouble selling items which are obviously stolen. Some law enforcement agencies offer additional services, such as engraving a unique ID number on your personal property or registering the serial number of valuable electronics. Contact your local police department for more information.

- If you come home and find that your home has been burglarized, don’t touch anything! Immediately go to a neighbor’s home and call 911.

- Report unusual and strange activity in the neighborhood.

### General tips
- Set up a buddy system or neighborhood watch in your community.
- Avoid walking on poorly lit streets, especially if you know the area has a high crime rate.
- Use direct deposit for paychecks or government checks.
- Try not to carry a purse, but if you do, keep it close to your body with a firm grasp, not dangling by your side where it can be easily stolen.
- Large sums of money should be carried securely.
- Don’t show large amounts of cash.
- Call 911 if you spot something that looks like a crime in progress.

### While you’re away from home
- Get to know your neighbors and notify them when you’re going on vacation or if you expect to be away for any length of time. Ask them to watch for strangers who might be near or around your home while you’re away. Cancel newspapers and other deliveries so that it doesn’t look like you’re away.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and packages while you’re away or ask the Postal Service to stop delivery until you return.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed or sidewalks shoveled while you’re away and have the garbage cans brought in.
- Many police departments offer “Dark House” checks. You simply notify them of the period of time you’ll be away and give them a phone number for use in case of an emergency. The police responsible for patrolling your part of town will make regular checks on your home while you’re away.

### Your car
- Always lock your car. Never leave the keys in the ignition, even if you’ll only be gone for a minute.
- Don’t leave packages on the seats or where they’re visible. Put valuables out of sight or lock them in the trunk.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- When you have your car serviced or parked by an attendant, leave only the ignition key with the car. Take your house keys with you.
- If you’re followed or harassed while driving, drive to a police station. If that’s not possible, drive to a gas station, shopping center or other well-lit, populated area and call 911.

### For teenagers
- Always lock up your bicycle.
- Engrave your bicycle frame with an identification number and record it in a safe place.
- Don’t hitchhike.
- Use a strong, secure padlock on your school locker.
- Drinking while driving is a crime, and it could cost you your life.
- Don’t accept rides from friends who have been drinking or using drugs.
- Don’t walk alone. Avoid isolated areas.

For more information, call your local police department or visit the New York State Division of Police website at troopers.ny.gov/prevention-and-preparedness