

Crime prevention when traveling (and at home)

Our Town continues to enjoy an enviably low crime rate. However, with the holiday travel period upon us, it's important to take precautions.

If going out of town, place a "hold mail" request with the Post Office. You can do this in person or online at <https://www.usps.com/manage/hold-mail.htm> . Note that you will need to set up a USPS account if you place an online request—so try to do this a week or two before you travel. In addition, stop delivery of newspapers.

When away from home—whether on a trip or just for the day:

- Use your home's smart features to program your lights—or buy a couple of timers and set interior lights to go on at random times. (Make sure the lights are visible through curtains or through blinds that are very slightly open.)
- **Make sure all doors—and windows—are locked before leaving home.** (You should also keep your doors locked even when at home.)
- **Keep garage doors closed and locked at all times.**
- Avoid leaving vehicle keys or fobs in your kitchen or entrance hall.
- If you have an alarm system in your home, always use it, even when you are at home.

Vehicle-related thefts

In the majority of vehicle thefts during 2022 in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area, the owner had left the key or key fob in the vehicle. Moreover, the majority of thefts from vehicles are from unlocked vehicles.

Every time you park, please lock your vehicle, remove any personal property, and take your key or key fob with you. The County police suggest setting an alert on your phone as a daily reminder to check your vehicle doors.