

Vehicle Safety

Park in a well lighted area so you can see your car and the surroundings from as far away as possible.

Have your car key ready before you approach the car so that you can make your entry into the vehicle as quickly as possible. When you are looking for your keys, you may be distracted from what is going on around you.

Glance into the back seat and floor boards of your car before you enter and check for anyone who may be hiding inside. This is particularly important if you drive a van type vehicle.

Always lock all doors whether you are in or out of your car.

Keep the windows rolled up enough so an arm cannot be inserted through the opening

If you think you are being followed, do not go home. Go to a safe place such as a police station, fire station, business or other populated area.

Do not leave handbags, laptops, iPods, or any valuable property in plain view. Secure valuables out of sight, in the trunk, to avoid vehicle break ins.

Never leave your car running and unattended.

If You See Something, Say Something

914-665-2500

Text Tips to CRIMES (274637)

Emergency Dial 911

**For more information on Crime Prevention:
See us on the web at
www.ci.mount-vernon.ny.us**

Shopping Safety Tips

No one wants to become a victim of crime. Robbery, assault, burglary and theft are crimes that can happen to unaware citizens. Please take a few minutes to learn some tips on shopping safely.

Before You Leave Home .

Plan your shopping trip carefully. Know where you are going and what routes you will take to get there. If possible, arrange for a companion to go with you. There is safety in numbers. Let someone know where you are going and what route you are taking. Additionally, let them know when you expect to return.

When You Are Driving .

Keep all your doors locked at all times.
Choose a well-lit and traveled route even if you believe it is out of your way.
Never allow your full tank to become less than half full.
Never pick up hitch hikers.
Do not stop to help strangers. Call the police to assist them.
Avoid confrontations with strangers or with others who might seek to follow you to continue the confrontation.

When You Park Your Car .

- Park in a well-lit area.
- If you are parking during the day and returning to your car after dark, check for street and building lights.
- ALWAYS lock all your doors.
- Remove all electronic items, such as calculators, radar detectors, and all packages from your car. Place them in the trunk or glove compartment, out of sight.
- Avoid parking near vans or other vehicles with covered cargo areas.
- Look around the parking lot for suspicious persons before you get out of your car.
- Avoid carrying large handbags. Carry only what is necessary.
- Shop in groups whenever possible. Use the "buddy system".
- Don't get out of your car until you are ready. If you don't feel safe, stay in the car or drive away.

When You Return to Your Car .

- Never leave the store with your arms full of packages. Use a courtesy cart.
- Have your car key in hand, ready to unlock your door.
- Check the parking lot for suspicious people and look around before you exit the store.
- If you feel unsafe, always ask the store security to assist you to your car.



Summertime Tips



Clinton I. Young Jr.
Mayor

Carl A. Bell
Police Commissioner

Crime Prevention Tips for Homeowners

Home Burglary Prevention's top 10 tips:

1. Make your house "hard." If it looks difficult to enter, is difficult to enter, and is well-maintained, chances are they will try somewhere else.
2. Place sufficient lighting in the front/back of your home and garage.
3. Use deadbolt locks as secondary locks on all doors. Ensure you have 2 1/2 - 3" screws in the door frame strike plate to reinforce deadbolt security.
4. Fortify your windows and sliding glass doors with secondary locks or dowels that fit securely in windows. Dowels can be made of wood, PVC pipe or metal. Secondary locks include eye and hook, charlie bars.
5. Secure your garage doors with a padlock or a sliding/cane bolt. Lock the door that leads into the house from the garage.
6. Develop rapport with neighbors. You are more apt to look out for each others' homes & property if you know each other.
7. Trim all landscaping below windows to avoid concealment areas.
8. Make sure your address is visible from the street so emergency personnel can quickly respond with ease.
9. Start a Neighborhood Block Watch Program by calling Mount Vernon Police Department's Crime Prevention Office at (914) 665-2599
10. Consider a pet dog. Dogs are a good deterrent to burglars.

PREPARE YOUR CHILDREN

- o Before leaving on your vacation, remind children about your family safety procedures for dealing with strangers, what to do if they get lost.
- o Keep a recent photo of children handy, also a photocopy of passports kept in a safe place or with a relative that can fax it to you in case of loss.
- o If you label children's clothing, make sure the label is inside so strangers are not able to learn child's name.
- o Review your home address, telephone number and provide your children with the name, address and telephone number of a relative or friend to contact in an emergency.
- o Provide a relative or friend with your travel itinerary and the name and telephone number of any hotels or resorts where you will be staying, if available.

Ensure that all occupants of any vehicles are properly secured and that there are no large or heavy items in the vehicle that may injure the occupants at any sudden stops.

Never leave children or pets alone in a car, since temperatures can rise rapidly in a parked car.

We **NEED** your cooperation to stop violent crimes.



**TO REPORT A CRIME
DIAL 9-1-1**

- **When planning a family vacation, it is important to look after your home before you go**

Help Protect your home by using these safety measures before your departure:

- Suspend your newspaper and mail delivery; or have a neighbor collect them for you.
- Don't tell too many people you are going to be away.
- Make sure your house looks lived in. That means having someone park their car in your driveway if you're taking yours. You can even ask a neighbor to put a bag of garbage at your curb on garbage day.
- Set your lights on timers, in various rooms. Motion sensor lights outside can also deter a burglar.
- Ensure that all your doors and windows are locked and secure.
- Don't forget about the garage. To be extra safe, place a bar or stick of wood in the lower track of sliding doors or windows.
- Inform a neighbor when you're leaving and returning, and ask them to keep an eye out for anything suspicious. Leave a neighbor with a phone number where you can be reached, and a spare set of your keys in case of an emergency. You may also leave a phone number of a relative with a neighbor.
- Don't leave valuables in sight through windows. Invest in high-quality, name-brand door deadbolt locks for all exterior doors.