



Southwestern Insurance Information Service

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News Release

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Don't give burglars a chance over the Thanksgiving holidays

An estimated 5 million Texans will take to the roads and airports over the 13-day Thanksgiving travel period prompting a non-profit insurance trade association to offer some advice to help homeowners protect their homes while away.

“During 2008 there were 230,263 burglaries in Texas and almost 20,000 of those occurred in November,” according to Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

Traveling homeowners can take some precautions to help prevent a burglar from making-off with cherished and irreplaceable possessions.

- Engage the deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and lock the garage door.
- Put interior lights on a timer to come on around dark.

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- Trim shrubs around the house to make it more difficult for burglars to hide.
- Leave important documents with a relative or place in a safe deposit box. Follow the same procedure with expensive jewelry.
- Turn off your computer and disconnect it from the Internet to prevent a burglar from hacking into your computer.
- Have mail and packages picked-up by a trusted neighbor and stop newspaper deliveries.
- Leave blinds and curtains open to make it appear someone is at home.
- Don't give out your travel plans on social networks such as Twitter or Facebook.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are away.
- Invest in a burglar alarm. Most burglars will avoid a home with a burglar alarm.
- Turn off the water connection to a washer. Coming home to a house full of water due to a leak in the washer hose would not be the way to end a vacation.

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Southwestern Insurance Information Service is a non-profit insurance trade association representing insurance companies in Texas and Oklahoma

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