

■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



Holiday Safety

With the holiday season upon us many Canadians will be celebrating away from their home, as well as giving and receiving valuable gifts in the coming weeks. So it's not surprising that Allstate's data reveals that the second most common claim made during the winter months is theft. Here are a few tips to help keep your holidays happy and your valuables safe:

- Keep sales receipts or any other invoices, especially for higher value items.
- Take note of important information such as an item's make, model and serial number where applicable. This information is important if the item is stolen.
- Keep an inventory of recent purchases and gifts received to determine if additional insurance coverage is needed. Consider having expensive items received as gifts (such as jewelry) properly appraised.
- Take photos or videos of your new valuables and save the files to an external hard drive or online backup website so they are safe. Photos and videos can help when making a claim.
- Cut up boxes from presents and put them in your recycling bin. Don't advertise to thieves that you have a new laptop or TV in your home.
- Keep blinds and curtains closed while you're out so that expensive items are not visible from the outside.
- Always keep valuable jewelry (one of the most common items stolen from homes) in a safe or hidden in a separate area of your home, ideally away from the bedroom. If it's all kept in one place such as a jewelry box, it makes it easier for thieves to find.
- Be mindful when posting personal information on social media sites. Do not post that you are going on vacation or upload pictures while you are away - wait until you return.
- Arrange to have snow removed from your driveway or sidewalk and have your mail collected when away so it looks like you are home.
- Deter thieves by using indoor and outdoor light timers and consider installing security lights on the front and back of your house.

For more helpful tips and advice, visit allstate.ca/learningcentre, contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

Good Hands® claims service available 24/7