

Other crime prevention tips...

AT HOME

- Join **OPERATION IDENTIFICATION**.
- Install good locks and always use them.
- Don't leave tell-tale signs that you are away.
- Never open your door to a stranger without seeing credentials.
- Install a wide-angle door viewer which permits you to see callers before you open the door.

ON THE STREET

- Walk only in well lighted areas.
- Avoid burdening yourself with packages and a bulky purse.
- Never display large sums of money in public.
- Walk near the curb and away from alleys and doorways.

IN YOUR CAR

- Always lock your car after entering and whenever leaving it.
- If you have car trouble, raise the hood, lock yourself in and wait for police. If a stranger stops to offer help, do not get out of your car. Ask the stranger to call for help.
- If you suspect you are being followed by another vehicle, drive to the nearest police station, service station, or restaurant and blow your horn.

CRIME PREVENTION

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE



EMERGENCY 9-1-1

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY
416-808-2222**

For more information regarding
PROTECTION FOR SENIORS
please contact
the Crime Prevention Officer at
your local Police Division.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.torontopolice.on.ca**

Working Together to Prevent Crime...



PROTECTION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



Criminals often regard the elderly as easy targets for many kinds of crimes. Every elderly person should be aware of these crimes and know how to prevent them.

CON GAMES AND SWEET TALK CRIMES

PIGEON DROP

This scheme accounts for more than half of the confidence games reported to the police. The swindlers claim to have found a large sum of money and offer to share it with you. You are asked to withdraw “good faith” money from your bank. The swindlers take the “good faith” money and give you a phony address where you are to collect your share of the found money. You never see them again.

BANK EXAMINER

A phony bank examiner contacts you and asks for your help in catching a dishonest bank employee. You are asked to withdraw a specified amount of cash from your account so that the examiner may check the serial numbers. After turning over your money, you never hear from the examiner again.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

Many door-to-door sales are not legitimate. Provincial laws protect you against quick sales at your door. Check and be sure.

MAIL FRAUD SCHEMES

CONSUMER FRAUDS

Beware of contests which require you to put money up front to win, even if there is a guarantee that you will be a winner.

HOME IMPROVEMENT OFFERS

Beware of tempting home improvement offers, made though the mail or on the spot. These offers are a popular style of swindle.

CHAIN-REFERRAL SCHEMES

These schemes offer a commission for buying one item and selling additional ones to friends. The products are usually over-priced and difficult to sell.

RETIREMENT ESTATES

Any retirement estates, offered at obviously low prices to “lucky” individuals, are usually fraudulent and should be avoided.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Business opportunities and work-at-home schemes which promise high profits after a substantial investment or registration fee are often fraudulent.

MEDICAL FRAUDS

Fake laboratory tests, miracle cures, and mail order clinics, etc... are other ways to defraud you. Legitimate doctors and hospitals do not advertise through the mail.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

- Avoid rushing into something involving your money or property.
- Be wary of “something-for-nothing” or “get-rich-quick” schemes.
- Never sign a contract until you and your lawyer, banker or other expert has thoroughly read it.
- Never turn over large sums of cash to anyone, especially a stranger, no matter how promising the deal looks.
- Do not hesitate to check the credentials of a salesperson or public official.
- Report all suspicious offers to the police immediately, before the swindler leaves town in search of other victims.
- Arrange for incoming cheques to be sent directly to your bank.