

Safety and Security Tips from SEAL Security: **Staying Secure During Year-End Holidays**

The increased activity level and crowds associated with the holiday season require heightened awareness of security and safety threats. Seal Security would like to offer the Spring Branch community some useful tips to help you and the ones you love to stay safe.

Protect your business or home while you are away

We recommend placing SEAL as your contact with your alarm company for a rapid response. The officers will conduct a perimeter sweep of the home and check that nothing looks out of place if an alarm call is placed. Have a trusted neighbor, relative or friend check on your house or business and pick up your mail and/or packages daily so they do not pile at your doorstep.

Accumulated mail can tip off criminals that you are not home. Go to holdmail.usps.com/duns/HoldMail.jsp and place a Hold order to stop your mail. Do not post your vacation plans on social media sites and be careful what you say on your answering machine or voicemail. It is also not a good idea to leave a spare key anywhere on your property while you are away. Consider installing motion sensor lights that will automatically turn on when someone is close. These actions can avoid a home burglary if you are going out of town.

Use precautions when parking

Look for a parking spot that offers good lighting and is close to the location where there are a lot of people. Lock valuables and packages in the trunk, and lock all doors. If you take shopping bags out from a store to lock them in your trunk, and plan to return to do more shopping, it's a good idea to move your vehicle to another section of the parking lot or street. Criminals know that you will be coming back and can ambush you. By moving your vehicle, you give the impression you're leaving. If you think you are being followed, do not go back to your vehicle. Return to the safety of the occupied

shopping area and contact authorities. Always carry car keys in your hand. Don't unlock the door until you are outside your vehicle. Get in quickly, and lock yourself inside.

Take care when using an ATM

If you must use a free-standing ATM, pick one that is inside the shop, mall or in a well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you absolutely need. Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you. Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

Protecting and recycling packages

Packages being stolen off of porches are a rampant crime during the holidays. Criminals tend to follow delivery trucks to snag packages off of doorsteps. If you know you will not be home when the package arrives, reroute the delivery to a trusted neighbor's or relative's address or your workplace. SEAL will be attentive in this matter. Please be extra mindful in locking all doors to your house, closing and covering all windows so

that criminals do not see your valuables. Vehicles should be locked and objects should not be left visible on any seats or floor. Also, placing your empty gift boxes outside for pickup shows thieves what is available inside your home. Recycling is recommended, however, break down the boxes, turn them inside out, put them in your trash receptacle and don't place them on the curb until collection day.

We are happy to continue servicing the business owners and residents of the Spring Branch community and would appreciate any assistance or other input you may provide to increase the efficiency of our service to you.

Thank you and have a safe and joyful holiday season!

S.E.A.L. Security Solutions, LLC

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If you have an immediate emergency, please call 911, as usual.

SEAL SECURITY HOTLINE – 713.396.5800

Our dispatch center is available to residents 24/7



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