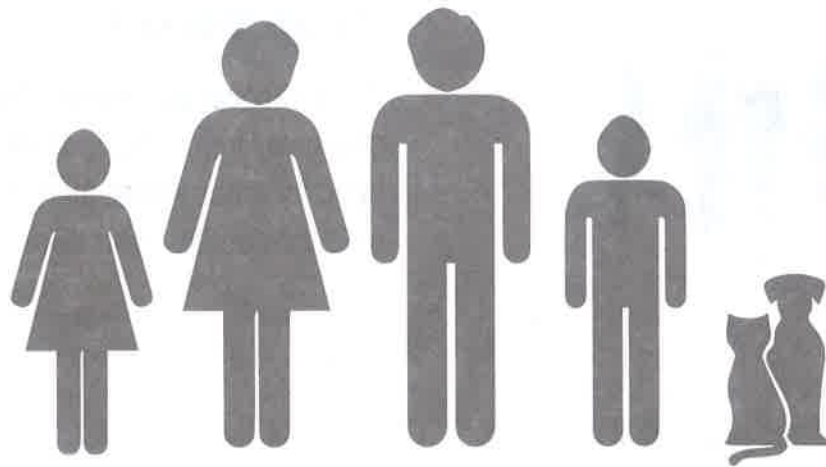


# Crime Prevention Book

**A collection of safety tips for your  
personal safety and your property.**



**NYPD** Crime Prevention Division



# Walking.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

## What Can I Do?



### People

Use well-populated and well-lit streets.  
When walking in desolate areas, do so  
in groups.

### Open Stores

If you suspect you're being followed,  
stay away from deserted blocks and  
head for areas where there are people  
or to the nearest open store.



### **Escort**

If you're driven home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.



### **Evade or Yell**

Should a motorist bother you while you are walking, reverse your direction. If you are still followed, seek a safe location and yell for help, if possible.



## **Report It.**

Immediately report a theft or suspicious activity to the NYPD by calling 911.

**NYPD**

# Subway and Bus.

## TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

### What Can I Do?



#### **Ready**

Have your money or metro card available.

#### **Sit**



Sit in the center of the car, away from the door, to avoid a purse or chain snatch.

#### **Sidewalk**



Wait for the bus on the sidewalk away from the curb.

#### **Jewelry**



Cover jewelry; turn stone rings toward the palm side of your hand.

**Off Hour Waiting Area**

**Wait**

Use designated waiting areas during off-peak hours.

1234



**Ride**

Ride in the conductor's car during off-peak hours.



**Awake**

Stay awake, aware and exit with the crowd.



**Wait**

While waiting for the train, stand in the middle of the platform, away from the yellow platform edge strip.



**Sit in Front**

Sit near the front of the bus.

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# Home.

## TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

### What Can I Do?



#### **Keys**

Have your keys ready before you get to the door.



#### **Entrance**

Make sure your entrance area is well lit.



#### **Mailbox**

Place your name on the inside of the mailbox where only the mail carrier will see it. If a name must be on the outside, use only the last name, e.g., the Smiths.



### **Lobby Door**

If you live in an apartment, close the lobby door behind you, especially if a stranger is approaching.



### **Strangers**

If a stranger asks to use the phone, keep your door locked and tell them you will place the call for them. Keep him/her out of your home.



### **Visitors**

Make all visitors and delivery persons use the doorbell.



### **Call 911**

If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1. Wait there for the police to arrive, if safe to do so.

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# Elevator.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

## What Can I Do?



### Waiting

When waiting for an elevator, leave the lobby/hallway if someone makes you feel uncomfortable.



### Mirror

Check the elevator's mirror before entering.



### Uncomfortable

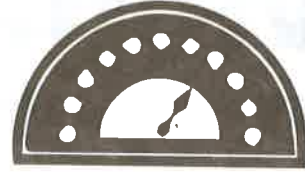
If you feel suspicious and do not want to get off on the floor you originally requested, give an excuse like, "Oh, I forgot my mail."





### **Buttons**

If accosted, press as many buttons as possible to try and get the elevator to stop at the next floor.



### **Exit**

Exit the elevator if someone enters that makes you feel uneasy.



### **Report It.**

Immediately report a theft or suspicious activity to the NYPD by calling 911.



### **Location**

Stand between the control panel and door when in the elevator.

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# Driving.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

## What Can I Do?



### Trunk

Keep valuables secured in the trunk, not lying on the seat next to you.



### Purse

Put your purse on the floor of your car.



### Vision Zero

Drive carefully - Help us achieve our Vision Zero goal of no vehicle related deaths



### Gas Tank

Keep your car well maintained and the gas tank at least half full to avoid getting stranded.



### Evade

Should you suspect that you are being followed, make several turns down active streets.

If the vehicle continues to follow, head for the nearest police station, fire house, or open store.

# Parking.

TIPS FOR YOUR PROPERTY SAFETY

## What Can I Do?



### **Park**

Park in a well-lit area to discourage personal attack and reduce the risk of your car being stolen.



### **Close**

Close all windows and lock the doors.



### **Look**

Look around before exiting your car.



### **Take**

Take any valuables with you.

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# ATM.

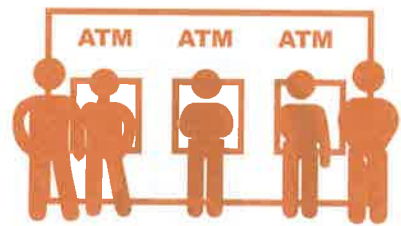
## TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

### What Can I Do?



#### **Be Aware**

Be aware of suspicious people near the entrance.



#### **People**

Use well-lit, well-populated ATM's.



#### **Mirrors**

Use mirrors, positioned at the ATM, to see behind you.



#### **Money**

Put your money away and take your card and receipt before exiting an ATM.



### **Indoor**

Avoid ATM's that have unlocked doors or are directly out on the street.



### **View**

Block a bystander's view when entering your pin number.



### **Card**

DO NOT let anyone into a bank vestibule using your card.



## **Report It.**

Immediately report a theft or suspicious activity to the NYPD by calling 911.

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# Property Theft.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY UNATTENDED

## What Can I Do?



### Wallets

Never carry your wallet in the rear pants pocket which is one of the easiest to pick.



### Car Items

Place items out of sight in the trunk of your vehicle prior to reaching your destination. Never leave packages in the vehicle.



### Laptops

Don't leave laptop computers unattended -- even for a minute.



### **Cash & Cards**

Carry only the amount of cash or number of credit cards necessary to make your purchases for the day.



### **Cell Phones**

Hold on to your cell phone and keep it secured out of sight when not in use.



### **Handbags**

When in a bar or restaurant, don't leave your handbag over the back of your chair, on a stool or on the floor. When dining out, the safest place for your purse is on your lap.



## **Report It.**

Immediately report a theft or suspicious activity to the NYPD by calling 911.

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# Purse/Wallet.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

## What Can I Do?

### Grip



Carry purses or briefcases in a manner that will allow you to let go.

### Release



If someone attempts to snatch your pocketbook, let go of it, especially if there is a weapon involved.



### Keys

Carry your keys on your person separate from your identification.





### **Bumps**

If you are frequently bumped in a crowd, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible.



### **Carry**

Always be aware of your surroundings and carry your pocketbook clasp toward you, close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow as if it were a football.



### **Long Strap**

Always keep your purse closed. Carry it close to the front of your body or hold it tightly under an arm.



### **Cash & Cards**

Divide money between your purse/wallet and pockets.

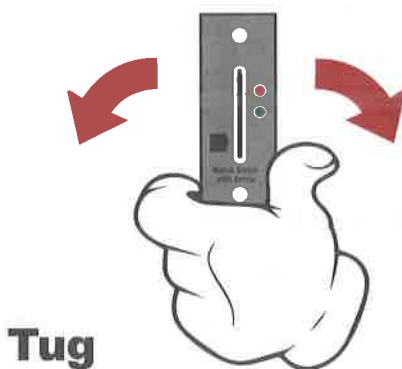
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# ATM Skimming.

## The Scam:

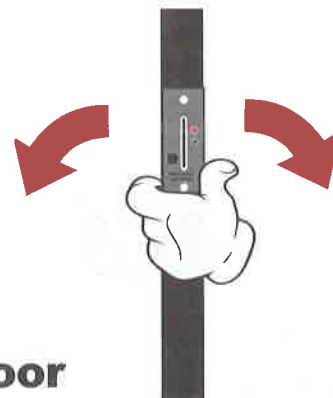
ATM "Skimming" occurs when a criminal attaches a phony card reading device over the real card reader located either at the lobby entrance door or on the ATM machine. The phony device looks identical to the real device and is equipped with electronic recorders that will capture the financial information from your card. This data is used to create "cloned" cards which will later be used to withdraw money.

## What Can I Do?



### Tug

These devices are usually attached with two sided tape and can be discovered by simply tugging on areas where the card must be swiped.



### Door

Skimming device can also be affixed to the card reader at the entrance door to the ATM.



### **Protection**

When entering your PIN, cover the keypad with your other hand to prevent possible hidden cameras from recording your number.



### **Money Trap**

Be aware of "Money Trapping", where the criminal attaches a device to the cash dispenser "trapping" the customer's money and retrieves it after the customer leaves the ATM area.



## **Report It.**

Immediately report any skimming devices to your financial institution and the NYPD by calling 911.

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# Deception Burglaries.

## The Scam:

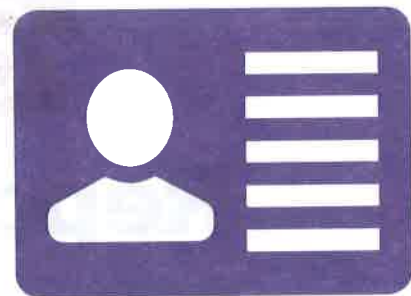
Criminals often target elderly victims and operate during normal business hours (9am-5pm), making them less likely to question the situation. These impersonators use false covers such as; utility companies, delivery companies and companies such as plumbing or electrical contractors. A common ploy being used is; "A pipe broke down the block and we have to check the water." Once inside, the perpetrator(s) manipulate and distract a victim while pocketing their valuables.

## What Can I Do?



### Safety

Stay inside your home and do not open the door. Do not invite anyone into your home while you verify a "work order." You may want to keep a list of utility companies phone numbers in a convenient location.



### Request I.D.

Verify person's I.D. through the view finder (peephole).

CON ED: 800.752.6633

NATIONAL GRID (KEYSPAN): 800.930.5003

DEP/WATER: 311

PSEG LI: 800.490.0025



### **Contact**

Contact the company to verify employee's legitimacy (company numbers may be looked up via internet or on your bill). You may want to keep a list of utility company phone numbers in a convenient location.



## **Report It.**

Immediately report a theft or suspicious activity to the NYPD by calling 911. If you cannot verify the I.D., feel unsafe, or suspect criminal activity, call 911 immediately.

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# Vehicle Theft.

## Safeguard your vehicle.

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, including theft for parts, insurance fraud, retagging, exporting and joyriding. To help prevent the theft and damage to your vehicle, we suggest the following:

### What Can I Do?



#### **Lock**

Always lock and secure your vehicle.  
Always activate your alarm every time you leave your vehicle.



#### **Keys**

Never leave the keys in the ignition when you exit the vehicle -- even for a minute!



#### **Valet**

Do not leave valet key in the car overnight.



### **Property**

Never leave property in your vehicle. Items such as loose change, shopping bags, GPS, cell phones, laptops, tablets and the charging cords are targeted by thieves.



## **Report It.**

Contact your local precinct crime prevention officer or visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/nypd](http://www.nyc.gov/nypd) for more information on the programs we offer.



### **Enroll**

Enroll in NYPD anti-theft programs such as VIN Etching, Operation ID and Combat Auto Theft.

# **NYPD**

# Prepaid Gift Card Scams.

## The Scams:

People are losing thousands of dollars in phone scams involving prepaid gift cards. After receiving a phone call from someone who claims to be a utility company representative, a law enforcement officer, an IRS investigator or an immigration official, the caller is threatened with the loss of their utility service, criminal prosecution, tax liens or deportation if they do not submit an immediate payment over the phone via a prepaid gift card. The common scenarios are as follows:

Six typical scenarios:

- Arrest Scam --** The victim's family member has been arrested and the caller, pretending to be a law enforcement officer, threatens to keep them in jail unless bail money is paid with a prepaid gift card.
- IRS Scam --** A caller informs the victim that they owe back taxes to the IRS and must make immediate payment with a prepaid gift card.
- Accident Scam --** The victim's family member had a car accident and the caller threatens physical violence unless immediate reimbursement is made with a prepaid gift card.
- Utility Scam --** Utility companies demand immediate payment by prepaid gift card or your electricity or gas will be turned off.
- Lottery Scam --** A caller informs the victim that they have won a lottery and must make immediate payment with a prepaid gift card to claim the prize.
- Deportation Scam --** The victim's family member has been arrested and the caller, pretending to be an immigration official, threatens to deport them unless bail money is made with a prepaid gift card.



# What Can I Do?



## Know This

Utility companies and government agencies will not contact you demanding immediate payment by prepaid gift card.



## Caution

Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason.



## Information

Never give out personal or financial information to anyone who emails or calls you unsolicited.



## Remember

Remember that anyone who has the number on a prepaid gift card has access to the funds on the card.



## Know Them

Never wire money, provide debit or credit card numbers or prepaid gift card numbers to someone you do not know.

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# Don't let your cleaner take you to the cleaners!

Getting some help around the house?



## Protect Your Privacy

Clear surfaces of bills, appointment books, work files and any other documents you feel the need to protect.



## Do Your Research

Use a company that has an excellent reputation and a long history.



## Make a Request

If you use a company or service, request the same cleaner every time.



## Double Check

Be sure to check on important/valuable items before and after the cleaner has left. Immediately report anything missing/damaged to the manager.



## Secure Valuables

Place your valuables (jewelry, small electronics, cash) in a safe or locked room.



## Off-Limits

Opt to make certain room(s) off limits.



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**NYPD** Community Affairs Bureau

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 **@NYPDCommAffairs**



**NYPD** **news.com**  
[www.NYPDnews.com](http://www.NYPDnews.com)

**CALL 1-800-577-TIPS**

NYPD

**CRIME** **stoppers**

[nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://nypdcrimestoppers.com)

**CALL 1-888-NYC-SAFE**

**CALL 1-866-SAFE-NYS**

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

**NYPD** NON-EMERGENCIES CALL 311



# **NYPD**

**New York City Police Department**

**[www.nyc.gov/nypd](http://www.nyc.gov/nypd)**