

For Immediate Release

NOT MANY SLEEPS LEFT

TIME TO THINK ABOUT KEEPING SAFE AND CRIME-FREE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Our annual reminders from "The Grinch" and Crime Stoppers will help keep your Christmas from being "stolen"

Vancouver, B.C. (December 15, 2025): The busyness of the holiday season is distracting, leaving us more vulnerable to "Christmas crooks" if we're not careful.

Each year, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers and "The Grinch" himself team up to remind people it's also a busy time of year for crooks.

"This is one of the most important times of the year to be extra vigilant, no one wants their holidays ruined by becoming a victim of crime," says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. "Statistics show burglaries and vehicle break-ins can spike around this time of the year. It's also darker out, so your car is especially vulnerable in a parking lot, when it sits unattended for hours at a stretch."



"Someone, somewhere always knows something about just about any crime, so we want to encourage anyone with information to contact us ANONYMOUSLY at 1-800-222-TIPS, through our P3 online Crime Stoppers app, or online," Annis says. "Thousands of tipsters call us each year, and all we want is information about a crime to pass on to police, not information about you. Your anonymity is actually guaranteed by the Supreme Court of Canada."

"We accept tips 24/7 in 115 different languages, so please don't hesitate in reporting ANONYMOUSLY. You can help protect yourself or someone you know from becoming a victim this festive time of year."

CRIME STOPPERS' TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

How to be proactive about protecting your own property and your loved ones.

1. **Thwart porch pirates.** Ask neighbours to help. Some thieves actually follow delivery trucks to people's homes so they can steal parcels as soon as the truck is gone.
2. **Keep an eye on your home security video app.** Use your video camera feeds to watch for both deliveries and crooks. Maybe you'll spot someone stealing packages from your porch.
3. **Register home security cameras to help police quickly find recordings of neighbourhood crimes.** Voluntary programs in some cities, like [Project Iris](#) in Surrey, could help police solve a break-in or other crime at your house or your neighbour's.

(more)

4. **Think twice before clicking “yes” on that online shopping cart.** Organized retail crime costs Canadians about \$5 billion annually, so buy from established businesses. Money from shoplifted or stolen goods sold online often goes to gangs dealing in drugs or illegal weapons.
5. **Post your sunny vacation pics on social media AFTER you’re back.** Remember, your post from the beach tells the whole world you’re not at home – and that includes thieves.
6. **Large empty boxes tell crooks exactly what valuable goodies are inside your house.** Boxes from expensive gaming computers, big screen TVs or other valuable gifts should be stored out of sight until the cardboard can be recycled. Also, close blinds to stop Grinches from peeking inside.
7. **Etch your valuables in case they’re stolen.** Ask local police to help etch your property with your driver’s license number. Also photograph valuables showing make, model and serial number.

SAFETY DOWNTOWN AND AT THE MALL

1. **Side-step the dark.** Find a busy, well-lit section of the parking lot and lock your gifts in the trunk.
2. **Don’t leave valuables visible in your car.** Before you lock up your car, leave nothing visible inside. Not even pocket change or empty bottles or cans.
3. **Leave your garage door opener at home or in your pocket.** A thief who finds both your garage remote and your address in your car considers that an open invitation to come by and walk straight into your garage for a look.
4. **Beware purse snatchers and pickpockets** - Watch who’s bumping into you in stores. Keep purses and wallets where you can keep track of them while jostling with holiday crowds.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators. Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers’ downloadable “**P3**” **smartphone app**, calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477**, online at solvecrime.ca, or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#).

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest, a charge, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns, or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Find MVCS on X: [@solvecrime](#), Instagram: [metrovancouvercrimestoppers](#) and You Tube: [@metrovancouvercrimestoppers](#).

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