

# Canada Post: Don't leave for vacation without taking care of mail

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## EXTRACT

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## ARTICLE CONTENT

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Crime statistics indicate that one of the most common times in which home invasion and break-ins take place is when the weather warms up and people are away on vacation. And one of the biggest tip-offs that someone isn't at home can be found simply by opening a homeowner's mailbox.

With this in mind, Canada Post reminds homeowners to ensure that they make arrangements either with a friend, relative or neighbor so that their mail is picked up each day. Not only can not collecting it make it difficult for mail carriers to deliver bills and packages, but it makes homeowners potential targets for thieves. Stacks of mail may suggest to would-be thieves that no one is at home, making it easier for them to find a way inside, knowing that no one's at home. In addition, personal financial data may be stolen as well if any of the mail contains sensitive details, such as a person's Social Security number.

If these arrangements can't be satisfied, Canada Post urges homeowners to get in touch with their offices, as for a small fee, it will hold all their mail until they return.

### **Other home security recommendations**

But mail isn't the only indicator thieves and home invasion schemers use to determine if a home is safe to enter without anyone's notice. They may also look to see if anyone is around throughout the day or evening. One way in which to trick them into believing someone is inside is by leaving a light on inside, or setting up timers so that certain lights go on or off during various portions of the day or evening.

Home security experts also recommend asking a neighbor or relative to park their car in the driveway or near to the house. Similarly, this can fool would-be thieves into believing someone is at home. Additionally, homeowners may also want to reach out to their rural insurance provider. They can provide some tips and recommendations for how to keep their homes safe while their away. They may even be able to take advantage of discounts by implementing theft-mitigation strategies, like installing a security alarm system.

According to Statistics Canada, breaking and entering crimes have become less frequent over the years in virtually all provinces. In 2010, Toronto had the lowest rate of break-ins for the third straight year among Census Metropolitan Areas.

