



## Volunteers in Police Service

Littleton Police Department • 2 Kittridge Lane • Littleton, NH 03561

Business: (603) 444-7711

Fax: (603) 444-1704

### **TIPS For Keeping Your Home Safe While You Are Away**

1. Make your home looked lived in:
  - Consider leaving lights on a timer
  - Arrange to have the outside kept up while you are away, whether it is mowing the lawn or shoveling snow on walkways.
2. Don't project your moves, be careful about discussing your plans in casual conversations and posting your absence on social media.
3. Make sure your house is prepared for the cold weather to prevent frozen/broken pipes.
4. Don't let mail or newspapers pile up, either put a hold on your mail and stop newspapers, or have someone pick them up daily. The Littleton VIPS doing house checks cannot pick up your mail or newspapers.
5. Remove the "hidden" spare key. Burglars will look under the door mat, on top of door frame, and under the flowerpot or fake rock for a spare key.
6. Keep expensive items out of sight.
7. Double check that all windows and doors are locked. Consider securing doors that you normally leave unlocked such as garage doors, sheds and outbuildings. If the Littleton VIPS will be doing house checks and any doors will be left unlocked, please note on the House Check Request Form in the Comments section.
8. No matter how well you prepare, there may be packages, energy delivery slips or flyers that arrive while you are away. The Littleton VIPS doing house checks will notify your local caretaker to pick up these items. For this process to work, please make sure that your local caretaker will be home while you are away.
9. During the winter, have your driveway plowed and treated (sand or salt). Driveways that are not cleared of snow will prevent Littleton VIPS from conducting a proper house check of your home due to lack of access.
10. When choosing your local contact, consider a person who would be able to notify a plumber, electrician or contractor if a Littleton VIPS member discovers a water leak, power failure or storm damage to your home during your absence.