

Safety Tip of the Month: When You're Home Alone

Here are some home alone safety tips that can help keep you safe while you are home by your self!

1. Never accept rides from anyone unless a parent is notified.
2. Don't take unfamiliar shortcuts to or from school.
3. Know how and when to call 911, police or the fire department and which radio station to tune in to for emergency information.
4. Call a parent as soon as you are home.
5. Have a schedule of after-school activities.
6. Have a back-up person to call in case of emergency.
7. Have clear instructions for answering the telephone or the door.
8. If a stranger phones:
 - **Never** tell them you are home alone!
 - Say: "My mom is having a bath" or "My dad is asleep and will call back. Can I take your name and number?"
9. If the doorbell rings:
 - Never go to the door! Ignore the ringing, even if it persists.
 - Pretend that no one is home; they'll come back later.
10. Do not visit friends without a parent's permission.
11. Do not use any appliance without a parent's permission.
12. If you come home and a window in your house is broken or a door is open that shouldn't be, don't go in. Go to a trusted neighbor, or find a phone and call 911.
13. If you have to stay after school or want to play or study with a friend, tell your mom or dad.
14. Don't leave your home without asking your mom or dad first. Make sure a parent knows where you are going and for how long. Always tell your mom or dad where you will be and when you will be home.
15. When your family is home and the doorbell rings, always find out who it is and ask your mom or dad **before** you open the door.
16. If you are home alone, never open the door — unless you can see that it is a relative or a specific person who your mom or dad said would come over to stay with you.
17. **NEVER** give information to anyone over the phone about yourself, your family or where you live. Hang up on anyone who calls to bother you or who says bad things on the phone.
18. If you have a babysitter who hits you, touches you or makes you play games that embarrass you, tell a trusted adult, even if the babysitter told you not to.
19. Keep all the windows and doors in your home locked.

20. If someone tries to break into your home, call **911** immediately and give them your full address, including your apartment number if you have one. Tell them that you are at home and someone is trying to break in. Then, try calling a neighbor you know is usually home. If you can get out of the house, get out. If you can hide, hide.