

Home security

Examine the possible points of entry to your home (doors and windows) and identify any weaknesses that may jeopardize the security of your residence;

Always leave doors and windows tightly closed before leaving;

Keep the main entrance and back doors locked at all times, even when you are indoors;

Doors and windows must be solid and resistant, and the frames must be correctly fixed to the walls;

Install locks that offer greater security and/or place security grilles on windows that are easily accessible from the outside;

Do not leave house keys in obvious places (potted plants, mailbox, etc.);

Have the door keys in a safe and accessible place as you may have to leave quickly and need them;

Have the air conditioners solidly attached (it is possible to enter when removed);

Do not forget to close your garage door, if possible, install a remote-controlled opening system;

Keep home and garage entrances well lit at night;

Install a clearly visible alarm system – it demotivates the burglar;

Install motion sensors;

Never open the door to suspicious or unknown persons and do not let them enter the house without being sure of who they are – be mindful of the use of different pretexts;

Place an oculus/viewer in your entryway that allows you to see the exterior before opening the door;

If you open the door to a stranger, always keep it ajar and with the security chain in place;

If not, install a security chain at the entrance door;

Make sure that purses, wallets and other valuables are not visible from outside the house – do not leave them in plain view, for

example, on top of countertops or cabinets;

Don't keep large amounts of money in your home;

Place your valuables in a safe at your bank. If this is not possible, keep them in a reasonable hiding place in your home – catalog/identify (serial numbers) and mark the most valuable objects;

Get to know your neighbors – they can be your eyes and ears when you're not home;

Always have the telephone numbers "at hand" so that you can communicate with someone, especially the police;

When you are absent from your home for several days, inform the police force in your area;

Inform your neighbor, he is your closest point of security (solidarity between neighbors inhibits the action of outlaws);

Do not let correspondence accumulate in your mailbox (ask someone you trust to collect it) and put a secure lock on it;

Tightly close/lock all doors and windows before leaving;

The telephone is probably your most important mean of communication, however, care must be taken with its use, as it can be contacted by anyone wishing to obtain information with a criminal intention;

Never give your name or address to unknown people who call you;

Never provide personal data or give any financial information;

Don't say you are home alone or that you live alone;

If a stranger calls your cell phone, never say you are away from home;

Consider changing your phone number to a confidential number.

Street safety

Avoid walking alone, especially after dark and in isolated or deserted and poorly lit places;

Carry your suitcase, purse, wallet or shopping bag as close to your body as possible and on the side opposite the roadside/roadway (on the inside of the sidewalk; preferably wear the bag "over the shoulder" or under your jacket);

Carry only the necessary cash with you (do not display large amounts of cash in stores or on the street). Never bring large amounts of cash. Whenever possible, use an ATM card;

If you need to carry a large amount of money with you, do not keep it all in the same place (distribute it in your wallet/bag and pockets);

Avoid giving information about your life to strangers;

Make the police aware of problems in your area. The police appreciate the information and will give you preventive advice;

In very crowded environments, such as the subway, be very attentive to your backpack, purse or suitcase;

In the event of a bump, check that your wallet, mobile phone and other valuables are still with you;

When going to an ATM, make sure there is nobody too close to you who could get your code or steal your money;

Whenever possible, use ATMs installed inside bank branches or commercial spaces.

Other advice

When traveling by car, always use the appropriate safety devices.

Say no to all forms of discrimination, racism, and xenophobia!

If you are a witness to situations of violence, report it, violence is a crime.

If you find yourself involved in any situation of injuries, threats, or offenses to physical integrity, report it, do not try to defend yourself using weapons. Remember that the weapon you carry with you can also be used to injure yourself or others.

If you are or know someone who is a victim of violence, mistreatment or negligence, REPORT THE CASE TO THE POLICE (GNR – www.gnr.pt or PSP – www.psp.pt).

Possession/use of unlicensed cold weapons or firearms is a crime!

In Case of Emergency Call 112