



Dear Tenants:

The Office of the Tenant Advocate wishes you safe holiday travels. In addition, we wish to share with you tips sent to us by: Wilson Reynolds, Representing District 07, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C that we thought were helpful and useful.

Many of you will be traveling for the holidays, and like last year, I wanted to remind you of a few simple precautions you can take to protect your home while you are away. So in no particular order, here are a few things to prepare your home from unwanted visitors.

-Stop your Washington Post subscription. You can do this on line at: <https://subscription.washpost.com/subserve> or call 202-334-6100.

-Hold Your Mail. You can do this on line at: [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov) go to the **third column from the left, below** 'Receiving Your Mail'.  
The third selection down is 'Hold Mail'.

-**Purchase an easy to use timer** for a lamp near a window. They are inexpensive, safe, and can be programmed to go on and off at set intervals. Purchase two, and connect the second to a radio (TV's don't always work because of the electronics).

-I know this goes without saying, but **check, and close all your locks**. Windows, and doors, front and back, upstairs, as well as downstairs. I can't tell you the number of burglaries I've heard about that were back door jobs and/or second story jobs.

-If you have a monitored alarm system, **call the monitoring company and perform a test**. You're spending the money, make certain you are receiving the service.

-If you know and trust your neighbors, **slip them a note of your travel plans**, and ask them to **report strangers they see to the police**.

-**Fire Precautions**. (1) Check you smoke/fire alarm. If your model is not hard wired, this would be a good time to **replace the battery**. (2) **Unplug small appliances**, such a coffee makers, space heaters, and toasters.

Hope this is of some small service.

A safe and happy holiday, and New Year, to you. We look forward to serving you in Fiscal Year 20008!

