



Crime Prevention For Older Adults



It is estimated that by the year 2026, more than 130,000 people over the age of 65 will reside in Halton, the majority of whom will be living on their own or with family.

Although Halton is the safest regional municipality in Canada in which to live and work, some older adults will find themselves the targets and/or victims of crime.

The most common types of crime against seniors are:

- Property crimes
- Financial crimes
- Physical crimes

Property Crime:

Property crimes make up nine out of 10 of crimes against older adults. It is defined as any crime where money and/or valuables are damaged or stolen from a person, home or business without direct personal contact with the victim.



Property crimes against older adults can include:

- Burglary
- Auto theft
- Petty theft

Victims of property crime suffer financial losses and may feel violated. In some cases, victims continue to feel unsafe long after the crime has been committed.

Prevent Property Crime In The Home:

- Install timers on lights so they turn on and off at certain times
- Trim back hedges and bushes (especially around windows and doors) to make your home visible from the street
- Ask a neighbour to watch your property and collect mail and newspapers left at your doorstep when you are away
- Install video surveillance



Prevent Theft While Shopping:

Before leaving your home to go shopping, remove any items you will not use from your wallet and/or purse. This way, if a theft occurs, a criminal will obtain less information from you.

Store all purchases in the trunk of your car to deter criminals from breaking in. Your car is safer if it appears empty.

When walking through shopping centres, keep all purchases, purses and wallets in front of your body to reduce opportunities for theft.

Prevent Auto Theft:

- Always lock your car doors. This is the number one determining factor for auto theft and the most commonly forgotten precaution taken by owners.
- Roll up all windows when not in your vehicle
- Never leave your keys in the ignition or your vehicle running when you are not in it
- Park in well-lit and attended areas
- Consider installing a security or tracking system in your vehicle
- Take part in a car-theft prevention program that enables police to stop your vehicle if it is driven at certain hours of the night

Additional Tips:

- Plan for your future when you are well and still independent
- Make a will and review it annually
- Seek independent advice from someone you trust before signing any documents
- Have your pension and other cheques deposited directly into your account
- Stay active in your community and connected with family and friends. Doing so will decrease social isolation, which has been connected to elder abuse.
- Ask for help from those around you (i.e. public health nurse, church, senior centre, friends and family) when you need it
- Consider getting involved with Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT), a partnership between members of the senior community and the Halton Regional Police Service. SALT is committed to reducing victimization and enhancing police services to older adults through education and community involvement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Halton Regional Police Service

Regional Fraud Unit

905-465-8741

<https://www.haltonpolice.ca/about/specializedunits/fraud.php>

One Vision, One Mission, One Team