

Test Your Street Smarts I.Q.

Do You:

Jog or walk by yourself early in the morning or late at night when the streets are quiet and deserted?

Stuff your purse with cash, keys, credit cards, cell phone – and then leave it wide open on a counter, a desk or the floor?

Do you put your wallet in a jacket, which you then hang up or throw over a chair?

Let your mind wander – thinking about your job or all the things you have to do – while you walk or drive?

Think it's a waste of time to lock your car when you'll be back in a few minutes?

Constantly look at your cell phone in a public place, never looking up at the people or environment around you?

If you answered yes to any question, you need to change a few habits. Even if you answered no and made a perfect score, read on. Spend a few minutes now to prevent trouble later.

There are over six million people victimized each year.

No one is completely isolated from street crime. Chances are that you or someone you know has been a victim.

Be street smart. Reduce your chance of becoming a target for crime.

RESOURCES

Department of Public Safety:

www.umassmed.edu/publicsafety/crimeprevention/bulletins/cp_street_smart/

NYPD:

www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/personal-safety.shtml

National Crime Prevention Council:

www.ncpc.org/topics/violent-crime-and-personal-safety/protect-yourself-from-violent-crime

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Don't Be A Victim...

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings — on the street, waiting for a bus or subway, in an office building, shopping mall or driving — know who and what is around you at all times.
- Be aware of your demeanor — be calm, confident and look like you know where you are going.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uneasy in your surroundings or with a person around you, avoid them or leave.
- Know your neighborhoods. Knowing the locations of the police and fire stations, public areas, hospitals, restaurants, and stores with various business hours will help you feel comfortable and confident in your environment.



On Foot

- Travel on well-lighted, frequently used streets and paths. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, alleyways, parking lots or less-traveled streets.
- Keep it simple — Do not flash large amounts of cash or expensive electronics, jewelry or clothing.
- Carry a purse close to your body. Make sure it is closed and there are no dangling straps. Put a wallet in a front pocket, or inside coat pocket, not a back pocket.
- Use ATM machines in the daytime. Be prepared, with your card in hand and do not approach the machine if you are uneasy by your surroundings or people nearby. Use drive-up or inside ATM's.
- Don't wear shoes or clothing that restrict movements.
- Have your car or house key in your hand before you reach the door.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions, cross the street or walk into an open store or well lit area. If you're scared, yell for help.
- Working late? Make sure there are others in the building, and ask someone to walk or drive you to your car or transit stop.

On Wheels

- Keep your car in good working order. Make sure you have enough gas to get where you are going and back.
- Always turn the ignition off, roll up the windows and lock the car doors when you park, even if you will only be gone for a short time. Check the inside and outside of the car before getting in.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be alert in parking lots and garages, if you feel

Your best weapons against street crime are alertness and common sense.

uncomfortable, ask a security guard or store staff to escort you to your car.

- If you think you are being followed, do not go home. Drive to the nearest police, fire or gas station and ask for help.
- Use your cell phone, to call the police if you believe you are being followed or if you have seen an accident. Otherwise, stay off your cell phone while you are driving.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers. Don't hitchhike.
- When stopped at a red light or stop sign, be sure to leave enough space to pull around the vehicle in front of you. If anyone approaches your vehicle in a threatening manner, pull away.

On Public Transportation

- Use well-lit, busy stops. If you must use a less frequented stop, try to arrange for a friend or family member to meet you.
- Stay Alert! Don't doze, daydream or over use your cell phone.
- If you are harassed, loudly say, "Leave me alone!" Do not be embarrassed.
- Notice who gets off your stop with you. If you feel uneasy, walk directly to a crowded place.

If Someone Tries to Rob You

- Do not resist. Give up your property — do not give up your life.
- Report the crime, immediately, to police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help others from becoming victims.



Take a Stand!

Make your neighborhood and workplace safer. Report any suspicious activity or hazardous surroundings in your neighborhood to police.

Join a Neighborhood, Apartment or Office Watch to look out for each other and help the police.

...Be Street Smart!