

Security Spotlight

An Informational Guide for Securitas USA Clients and Employees



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Travel Smart Travel Safe



Are you "leaving on a jet plane," "rolling down the river," boarding the "Chattanooga Choo Choo," or just "cruising down the highway, looking for adventure?" Travel can broaden your knowledge and enrich your spirit. So, let's start packing! But remember to pack more than just your clothes. Pack one of Securitas's core values, Vigilance to help make your travel safe and secure.

One of the very first things you should do is to make a thorough checklist of all the items you need to pack and to take care of before you leave. Did you remember to put a hold on your mail? Did you confirm your hotel reservation? Did you get your traveler's checks? Have you packed any medications you might need? With so many different things to remember, it is easy to overlook something. Making a checklist will help you keep it all straight. In the same way that a good security officer should check their post orders, a good traveler will verify that every item on their checklist is packed or taken care of before they set foot out of the home.

Here are a few of the many important tips available from government (like the U. S. State Department) and private sources (like the AAA).

International Travel

Traveling to a foreign land is exciting, but beware! Last year's tourist hot spot could be this year's tourist nightmare. Always check with the U. S. State Department for any travel advisories. Here are a few other things to remember:

- Find out the location and contact information for the U. S. Embassy or Consulate.
- Avoid carrying cash (use traveler's checks or credit cards).
- Understand the currency exchange rate.
- Learn about local laws in the country.
- Make sure you have an ample supply of any medications you need (including extra in case of travel delays).
- Get a letter from your physician in case you are questioned about your carry-on medication; some countries have strict restrictions on bringing prescription or even non-prescription medications into the country without proper medical documentation.
- Make photocopies of itinerary and travel documents.
- Check if the country you are visiting requires an International Driving Permit.

Travel by Airline

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reminds us that safety is not just the responsibility of the airline, the pilot and crew, or the terminal attendants. Safety is a team effort that involves the passenger as well. Remember the important catch phrase, "If you see something, say something!" This applies to suspicious behavior, unattended packages, or odd noises and anything else that just does not seem right. Bring it to the attention of the flight professionals (the cabin crew or airport staff) and let them evaluate the seriousness of the situation. That is what they are trained to do.

The FAA has some other recommendations for a safe and enjoyable flight.

- Pay attention to the flight attendant safety briefing at the beginning of your flight and read the safety briefing card.
- Buckle up. Keep you and your family safe by wearing a seat belt at all times while seated.
- Use an approved child safety seat or device if your child weighs less than 40 pounds.
- Prevent in-flight injuries by following your airline's carry-on restrictions.
- Check your airline's Portable Electronic Device (PED) policy.

If it becomes necessary to evacuate the aircraft, be sure to heed these FAA directives:

- LEAVE YOUR POSSESSIONS BEHIND.
- Stay low.
- Proceed to the nearest front or rear exit - count the rows between your seat and the exits.
- Follow floor lighting to exit.

Additional Resources

There are numerous websites that can help you with your travel planning. Each is filled with more advice than can be mentioned in these pages. Here are a few that you should look at when planning your travel. Great tips for both domestic and international travel can be found at <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Usresponse/Travel-Safely.shtml> or the U. S. State Department website at <http://travel.state.gov/>. The U.S. Department of Transportation also provides tips and links to other government sites (such as the TSA and the FAA). The Triple A also has great tips for safe road travel. Check them out at <http://www.aaa.com>.

Travel by Automobile

The United States is blessed with thousands of scenic and historic sites of interest and traveling by car is one of the best ways to enjoy the wonders of the U.S. You can decide which route to take and control when and where you stop and for how long. You can help to increase the safety of your journey by following the advice of the American Automobile Association (AAA). Here are just a few of those tips.

- Keep your doors locked, safety belts buckled and children secure in properly installed safety seats.
- Don't let your gas tank fall below 1/3 tank.
- Pack a flashlight, blanket, and first-aid kit. In cold climates, pack extra warm clothing.
- If you are going on a long trip, pack an emergency ration kit of water and nonperishable food items such as fruit or granola bars.
- If stopping during nighttime travel, choose a well-lighted populated facility. Park where your vehicle can be seen.

If you have a vehicle breakdown, remember that it is usually safest to remain with your vehicle until help arrives. Some actions recommended by the AAA are:

- Move your vehicle off the road safely away from traffic.
- If you can't move your vehicle off the road, ask all passengers to exit the vehicle when it is safe to do so, and stand away from traffic.
- If you must walk to a phone, keep your group together.
- Warn other drivers by raising the vehicle's hood, tying a white cloth to a door handle or using reflective triangles or flares. Warning devices should be placed far enough away from the vehicle to give oncoming traffic time to react. A good rule of thumb: three devices at 100, 50, and 25 yards from the vehicle.

Three Golden Rules

These safety tips are only a few of the dozens recommended and following them will help make your travel safer. At the root of each of these safety tips are three simple rules that apply to daily living as well as to travel.

- **Plan ahead**
- **Remain vigilant**
- **Use your common sense**

Following these three key safety rules and applying the safety tips can help make your travel experience both secure and satisfying. Have a nice trip!

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For more information, contact your Securitas USA supervisor or account manager