

# Security Spotlight

*An informational Guide for Securitas Canada Clients and Employees*



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## Prepare to Take Off



**Do your plans include “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 safer and more secure.**

### **Remember...**

Make a thorough checklist of all the items you need to pack and things 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 stay organized. In the same way good security guards check their post orders, experienced travelers will verify that each item on their checklist is packed or taken care of before they begin their journey. A wealth of important tips is available both from governmental and private sources.

### **International Travel**

Traveling outside the country is exciting, but beware! Last year’s tourist hot spot could be this year’s tourist nightmare. Always check with the Canadian Government’s Travel Advice

and Advisories prior to booking a trip:  
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>.

Here are a few other things to remember:

- Find out the location and contact information for the Canadian Embassy or Consulate.
- Avoid carrying cash (use traveler’s checks or credit cards).
- Understand the currency exchange rate (as well as any exchange fees associated with using your credit card).
- Learn about local laws in the country.
- Bring 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.
- Verify whether the country you are visiting requires an International Driving Permit.

### **Air Travel**

Transport Canada (Airport Transportation: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/air-menu.htm>) reminds us that safety

**Integrity Vigilance Helpfulness**

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, odd noises or anything else that just does not seem right. Bring it to the attention of the airline professionals (the cabin crew or airport staff) and let them evaluate the seriousness of the situation. That is what they are trained to do

Additional recommendations for ensuring a safe and enjoyable flight:

- Pay attention to the flight attendant safety briefing at the beginning of your flight and read the safety information 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 official directives:

- Leave your possessions behind.
- Stay low.
- Proceed to the nearest front or rear exit - count the rows between your seat and the exits when boarding the plane.
- Follow floor lighting to the exit.

### **Travel by Automobile**

Canada is home to many scenic and historic parks and sites. Traveling by car can be one of the most flexible and relaxing ways to enjoy the wonders of our country. You can choose your route, as well as when and where you stop and for how long. Following the advice below will increase the odds of a safe journey.

Keep doors locked. Wear safety belts and secure children in properly installed safety seats.

- Keep the gas tank above 1/3 tank.
- Pack a flashlight, blanket, and first-aid kit. In cold climates, pack extra warm clothing.
- If you are planning a long trip, pack an emergency ration kit of water and nonperishable food items, such as fruit or granola bars.

- When stopping during nighttime travel, choose a well-lit, busy facility. Park where your vehicle can be seen.
- In the event your vehicle breaks down, remember that it is usually better to remain with your vehicle until help arrives as long as it's safe to do so.

Other suggestions include:

- 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.
- Provide a visual warning to 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 is to place three devices at varying distances (100, 50, and 25 yards) from the vehicle.

### **Three Golden Rules**

These safety tips are only a sample of recommended best practices. Following them will help make your travel safer. These safety tips underscore three simple rules that apply to daily living as well as 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.