



Insider.

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Safe Travels During the Holidays

The busy malls, bumper-to-bumper traffic, or road trips. Wherever your travels take you during the holiday season, make sure you stay fresh and alert, drive defensively, and never, ever, drive impaired. Especially in a year full of uncertainties, it's important to plan ahead to safely navigate the roads when driving during this time of the year.

Plus, if you're headed north for the holidays, you might have to deal with snow and icy roads. **Check out these helpful winter driving tips from [AAA](#).**

Keeping Your Holiday Packages Safe

It's a sure sign that the holidays are here when packages big and small start arriving at your doorstep. Especially during a pandemic, more people have turned to online shopping. But don't let your guard down! Thieves are itching for any opportunity to take what doesn't belong to them.

Here are 6 tips to combat these pesky "porch pirates":



1. **Use Amazon Key** – This tool connects with your smart devices and allows Amazon delivery people to leave packages inside your front door, the garage or the trunk of a car.
2. **Use Amazon Locker** – If you're not comfortable with a stranger entering your home, look for an Amazon Hub Locker nearby. The delivery person will deposit your packages inside and then send you a special passcode in order to retrieve your items.
3. **Install a BoxLock** – Essentially, these are smart padlocks. The delivery person scans the package, and if the bar code matches, the box opens so they can leave it inside. This is a good alternative if you don't want someone going into your house.
4. **Install security cameras** – A visible security camera might deter thieves if they think they're being observed. Check out services like Ring or other doorbell cameras as well.
5. **Track your packages by signing up for alerts** – FedEx Delivery Manager, UPS My Choice, and USPS Informed Delivery all offer text, email, and/or mobile app alerts so that you know when a delivery will be made and can adjust your own schedule.
6. **Require a signature.** If you know you'll be home, packages won't just be dropped off outside your house. This a sure way to receive your packages when the courier arrives.

See more tips [here](#).

Yearly Home Maintenance

Just like us, our houses get a year older every 12 months. Now that the temperatures are a little bit cooler, it might be a good time to perform some home maintenance tasks to help your home age gracefully.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:



- **Clean your clothes dryer exhaust.** Lint buildup can affect the dryer's efficiency and may create a fire hazard. In fact, about 2,900 house fires are caused by clothes dryers each year.
- **Drain the water heater.** Sediment that collects in the bottom of the heater can affect its longevity. If you're not sure how to drain the water heater, [this article](#) could help you perform this task.
- **Lubricate garage door springs.** Whether you have an opener or not, greasing and cleaning your garage door springs can make it much easier to operate.
- **Inspect your roof.** Checking for broken or missing tiles could help you prevent a more serious issue. Plus, it could help you identify if you may have a leak in your home. If so, it might be a good idea to find out if your homeowner's insurance policy covers roof damage.

If you're interested in receiving a quote for a home insurance policy, call or visit your local Estrella today! We'd love to end your year on a high note by saving you more money with the lowest price, guaranteed!

[Source 1](#)

[Source 2](#)



From all of us at Estrella Insurance, we wish you the merriest of holidays! May you find health, happiness and peace during the holiday season and through the coming year. We thank you for being a valued customer and for trusting us with your insurance needs. We look forward to serving you in 2021 and beyond!

Holiday Hours

Our offices will be closed on the following days:
Christmas Day, December 25
New Year's Day, January 1





This holiday season, we had the opportunity to work together with the incredible and charitable program Toys for Tots.

We sincerely thank everyone who visited their local Estrella agency to drop off a generous donation. Your gifts will bring lots of smiles to less fortunate children!

Thank you!

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