























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



Buying a New Car? Read This First!

If you buy a new or used car, you'll still be covered by your current auto policy, without having to notify your insurance company the same day. To take possession of the car, all you need is "proof of insurance", such as a policy notice, bill, or your insurance card. Unfortunately, some dealerships hope you don't know this vital information. They try to run a scam, forcing you to buy insurance from their "preferred agent".

If you run into this scam, refer to your **Declaration Page/Policy Jacket or consult with your Estrella Insurance Licensed Agent.** We're always here to ensure you pay the lowest price and get the consumer protections you need.



Every car owner hears about the best ways to keep their vehicle in good shape. Whether the advice comes from friends, family, or the car manufacturer, many maintenance suggestions for fuel efficiency, engine power, and overall vehicle longevity may not be as accurate as you think. Some tips suggest money-saving options or performance-enhancing practices. Yet, not everything passed along to car owners is necessarily true.

Let's talk about three of the most common myths.

An oil change should be every 3,000 miles.

Myth. Most engine oil today has special lubricants and additives that can extend the life of the oil. This means for cars 15 years or newer, oil changes are recommended to be done between 5,000 to 7,500 miles. But your best bet is to follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule for when to change your oil.

In order to maintain a vehicle warranty, all services must be performed at the dealer.

Myth. Consumers can have regular maintenance and repairs done where they want to. But no matter where you choose to go, make sure you save your documented paperwork for the work that's been done.

A car battery lasts 5 years.

Myth. Typically, a car battery lasts between 3-5 years or longer. Maintaining it and testing it often could help its life expectancy.

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