



City of Miami Springs Miami Springs Police Department

Dear Resident,

The Community Policing Office would like to remind you not to open your front door to anyone unless you know who the person is or you have confirmed they are in fact who they say they are. To help protect yourself please read the following information about distraction thieves.

It's called a distraction theft, and it happens more often than you might imagine. A distraction theft usually is performed by at least two people, although some distraction thieves work alone. When two people work the scam as a team, it usually involves one person distracting the victim, while the other helps themselves to the victim's unattended belongings. They may come to the door as a team, pretending to be inspectors, utility workers or sales people for pest control businesses, roofing companies or other home improvements.

Once inside your home, the crime will begin. Working as a team, one of the thieves will engage the victim in a conversation or phony sales pitch to divert the victim's attention while the other thief sneaks away to swipe the victim's belongings.

Other distraction thieves prefer to work alone. They go house-to-house knocking on doors. If no one answers, the thief may go around to the rear of the house and look for any easy way to get in. If someone answers the door, the thief will try a variety of excuses to try to trick you into letting them in your home. Here are some of the distraction thief's most common lines: I'm here to check your pipes, check your telephone line, check the water, you've won a prize or I've lost my pet. Others will ask for a glass of water, a pen or piece of paper to jot down a note or ask permission to use your toilet.

Remember, if you are not sure if someone is legitimate; please call the Miami Springs Police Department right away at 305-888-9711.