



INFORMATION BULLETIN

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE DETECTIVE BUREAU



Palm Beach County, FL- residents are advised to be on the alert for criminals who practice “distraction thefts.” In these cases, someone will approach the resident at their home under the pretense of doing some work or providing some service at the residence. Then, while the resident is being distracted (lured outside of the house) by the original person, another individual will enter the home to look for and steal objects of value, such as cash, jewelry and watches. Depending on the circumstances, the victim may not immediately detect the loss of the stolen items. The victims tend to be elderly.

Examples of some distractions include:

- Cutting trees
- Water check
- Working on fence

The Sheriff's Office cautions residents and their household staff to be very cautious about strangers who come to the house, and not to allow themselves to be distracted. If you are not expecting a service call then:

- Lock the door , never open it
- Challenge the person at the door
- Ask them from inside what company they are with
- Ask them to show you an ID
- Know your neighbors so you can call them to confirm if they are having work done
- Try to get vehicle description
- Make the call to law enforcement and have them confirm their credentials

If there is ANY doubt as to the legitimacy of someone coming to your house, residents are encouraged to call the **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office** at **561-688-3000**. Deputies will respond to assist the caller in identifying individuals and determining the true nature of their business with the resident.