



Ladies Have You Heard?

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Home Economist

DON'T PLAY SANTA CLAUS TO THIEVES

This is the month to spread holiday cheer and good will to man. But don't let the bustle and the joy of Christmas lull you into thinking that thieves are on holiday too.

An unlocked car full of packages on the seats of floor, for example, is an open invitation to roving thieves. I would like to offer these suggestions to help insure that your gifts will fall into the hands of the people you choose for them:

—Always lock your door even if you'll only be away from the car for a few minutes.

—Be sure all windows are closed.

—When you leave the car, put packages in the trunk and be sure it is locked. Don't tempt thieves by putting your parcels on display inside the car.

—Assuming that personal belongings — and Christmas gifts fall into this category — are stolen from your car, your loss may be covered if you carry a personal property floater insurance policy or if you have a homeowners "package" policy.

—Keep in mind that thefts of personal property from a motor vehicle or trailer — other than a public conveyance such as a bus or a taxicab — may be covered only if the thief forces the vehicle open while all the doors, windows and other openings in the car are closed and locked.

DON'T NEGLECT FOOD SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Food poisoning is something we tend to associate with summer picnics, but food bacteria are just as busy during the Christmas holidays as they are on the 4th of July.

Christmas is a time for cooking special foods, entertaining guests and in general, changing from the everyday routine. Don't let this carefree atmosphere trick you into forgetting food safety precautions.

After you finish your holiday shopping, rush your food home and put it in the refrigerator or freezer. Don't let groceries set in a sun-warmed car while you run other errands.

Remember to keep hot foods hot — above 140 degrees Fahrenheit — and cold foods cold — below 40

LANCASTER — Children won't scream for cookies this Christmas when holiday treats include delicious pop corn balls make quick and easy with a pop corn ball maker.

degrees Fahrenheit — to prevent bacteria growth. To put it as simply as possible, if you aren't going to serve a food within an hour after cooking, refrigerate it.

Wash your hands with soap and water before handling any foods. After you handle raw meat, fish, poultry or eggs, wash your hands, utensils and flat surfaces with soap and hot water before working with other foods. Remove stubborn bacteria from a cutting board by scrubbing it with soap, rinsing it in hot water and then applying a solution of 1 teaspoon chlorine bleach to 1 quart of water.

Roasting a turkey for Christmas? Cook it completely to an internal temperature of 170 to 175 degrees Fahrenheit. Never partially cook a turkey with the idea of finishing the cooking later. Bacteria can survive in partially cooked poultry and "staph" bacteria may produce toxins.

Remember to cook the turkey stuffing thoroughly, too. If you plan to stuff the turkey, do it just before you put the turkey into the oven. Better yet, cook the stuffing separately, basting occasionally with the turkey juices.

Cool leftovers quickly and put them in the refrigerator. Don't hold any broth or gravy for more than a day or two. To serve again, reheat and boil for several minutes before serving — then serve hot.

This handy gadget, made of durable molded plastic, takes the mess out of shaping pop corn balls by hand. And the pop corn ball maker is simple to use.

Just scoop your favorite pop corn ball mixture in the larger half of the ball maker and press firmly with the small half. Presto...the

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