

# SAFETY SENSE

## Tips To Help Protect Your Jewelry

(NAPSA)—Jewelry is often a gift from the heart and can serve as a sparkling reminder of special occasions.

Despite its sentimental value, however, jewelry can still be vulnerable to damage, loss and theft. Jewelry is occasionally lost in the swimming pool, left in a public restroom and even thrown away with the garbage. Here are a few tips to help you protect your gems:

- Remove jewelry before you swim, even rings. Your fingers constrict in cold water and rings might fall off. What's more, salt water and jewelry don't mix. Ocean water can damage metals and stones.

- Pearls are easily damaged by personal grooming products such as cosmetics, moisturizer and perfume, so avoid applying these where you wear jewelry.

- If you ever bump or snag jewelry, have it inspected for possible damage.

- Never place jewelry in your pockets, near vents, grates, sinks or drains.

- Some gems are prone to fading so store them away from direct sunlight.

- When traveling, leave valuable jewelry at home or in the hotel safe. Don't leave it in your room.

- At home, it's not a smart idea to leave jewelry in an obvious place such as a jewelry box. That's the first place burglars look. The best place to keep valuable pieces is in a



**All that glitters may be vulnerable to damage, loss and theft but you can protect your favorite pieces of jewelry.**

fireproof safe. You can purchase these at hardware stores, supercenters or office supply stores.

- Most burglaries take place in the daytime. Always be sure to lock your home's doors and windows.

- Have jewelry inspected and reappraised periodically. Some jewelers recommend doing this once a year.

- Take photos of your jewelry and store them in a safe, secure place outside your home.

- Insure your jewelry with a specialty insurance provider, such as Jewelers Mutual.

- At [www.Jewelrysafetynet.com](http://www.Jewelrysafetynet.com) and (800) 558-6411 you can get a free quote on insuring your jewelry, apply for a policy and learn more jewelry protection tips.