

Knowledge that will change your world

## Lab Security for the Holidays – LOCK YOUR LAB

The holidays provide not only a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends it is also a great opportunity for those with ill intent to steal from your lab. It is important to understand that not all people are honest and will take any opportunity they can get to take from others. So what can you do to make sure they don't take from you? There are several things but first and foremost is to simply make sure your lab is locked when no one is occupying the space.



There are several things you need to be aware of during the holiday season. Buildings at UAB are not nearly as busy so those who may thwart an attempt by those wishing to steal may not be around. Labs that are not occupied and unlocked are exactly one of the things a thief looks for. If you take a short break for lunch and leave your lab unlocked this may just be the opportunity the thief will need.

Look around your lab and see all the things that a thief may want. The list below will help you get started in making sure your lab is secure and once the holidays are over you can rest assured you will come back to the lab and find it just like you left it.

- **Personal items** – make sure when you leave your lab or office that you take any valuable personal items with you.
- **Lab equipment** – small equipment that can be carried out is one of the easier things for a thief to steal. Lab equipment can also be used for purposes other than what it is intended. Small lab equipment can be used to set up illegal labs.
- **Chemicals and other hazardous materials** – Like small lab equipment, these items are relatively easy to steal and can also be used for nefarious purposes.
- **Data Security** – in addition to items and property, data and intellectual property may be what the thief is wanting and one of the most difficult things to detect until it's too late. A thumb drive accessing information from your computer and copying the information may not be known immediately but the consequences can be devastating.
- **Don't prop doors open** – this can not only defeat the pressure relationship and containment capability of your lab but it will also make your lab an easy target.

In addition to maintaining vigilance and taking ownership of your lab security you can also download the free [RAVE Guardian](#) app for your smart phone. This app can be used to communicate directly with UAB Police and “if you see something, say something”. [UAB Police](#) also has a great list of tips to help you make this season not only joyous but also secure.

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