



Christmas Crime Prevention Tips



Keep Christmas Crime Free!

When Shopping

1. **Make sure your handbag, purse or wallet is secure and out of sight in a place where a pick pocket would find it difficult to reach without you knowing.**
2. **Never leave your bag unattended.**
3. **Keep your pin number confidential.**
4. **Try and pay for items on a debit card rather than carry large amounts of cash and if possible on a credit card as you may get insurance cover should the items be stolen.**
5. **When typing your pin number in a hand terminal ensure that it cannot be seen.**
6. **Never keep your chequebook and card together.**
7. **Always close car windows; engage steering locks and lock doors.**
8. **If you have to presents in a car, make sure they are in the boot and the car is locked.**
9. **Park in a well lit area or an attended car park.**

At cashpoints

1. **Go with a friend if possible and be aware of what is happening around you.**
2. **If you see someone suspicious hanging around, use another cashpoint.**
3. **Before inserting your card have a look around the machine, checking that it appears normal and there is nothing attached.**
4. **When typing your pin number, ensure that it cannot be seen.**
5. **Only withdraw as much as you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.**

6. Put your money and cards safely away before leaving the machine.

At Home

1. Don't leave presents under the tree or in view of a window.
2. Mark valuable presents with your postcode. Permanent marking kits are in-expensive and could help you get your possessions back if they are stolen.
3. Dispose of present packaging carefully as empty boxes left outside can advertise that you have new goods inside.
4. Ensure car Satellite Navigation devices are taken indoors when not in use or hidden from view. Also remove the suction mounted fitting from the windscreen as this gives potential thieves a strong indication that the car has a Satellite Navigation device, which may be in the car somewhere.
5. Don't keep large amounts of cash for shopping at home.
6. Lock up sheds and garages so thieves cannot gain access to ladders and tools which they could use to gain access into your home.
7. Keys should not be left in doors or lying around but you should be able to find them quickly in an emergency. Never leave your keys displayed on a hook especially near an outside door or under the mat. Most burglars enter a house through a window, but by leaving keys around you provide an easy opportunity for burglars to edit through a door and most probably with much more property.
8. When you go out at night, leave the lights on with curtains drawn. For additional effect you can leave the television or radio on as well to create the illusion that you are at home. If you do not wish to leave the lights on permanently you can purchase programmable time switches to come on during times when you are usually at home.
9. A secure home will reduce the chance of you getting burgled. But, if you get home and notice signs of a break-in:
 1. Don't go in or call out – the intruder could still be inside.
 2. Go to a neighbour's or use your mobile to call the police.
 3. Don't touch anything or tidy up.
10. If there is a stranger at your door – stop think and remember – SOS – STAY OUT STRANGER and always:

- **Keep your door shut and locked and use a spy-hole or window to check who is outside.**
- **Do not open the door if you do not recognise or are not expecting a caller.**

If you are away

- 1. Double check that you have locked all windows and doors. If you have an alarm, ensure it is activated.**
- 2. Inform trusted neighbours and ask them to keep an eye on your home.**
- 3. Buy some timers for lights, radio and televisions so it looks as though you are at home. Signs of occupation help deter intruders.**
- 4. Remember to cancel any deliveries, e.g. milk and newspapers.**
- 5. Ask a neighbour to collect your post on a regular basis.**

If you are out for the evening

- 1. Ensure someone knows where you are going and when you will be home.**
- 2. Always plan how you will get home before going out.**
- 3. Don't leave bags over the back of your chair and keep purses and wallets close to your body.**