

# Christmas Security



- Key Points to Consider
- Makes sure you keep presents out of sight
- Make it look as if you're at home even if you aren't
- Shop safely
- Avoid using cash
- Secure your pin when paying by card

**Valuable presents give an opportunity for criminals to strike.**

**Don't make it easy for criminals - protect your home this winter and don't let thieves steal your presents.**

**Top tips for protecting your property at Christmas.**

- Don't leave presents and valuables on view – it's a temptation for opportunist thieves. Keep them out of sight at home or when in the car.
- If you are going to be out during the hours of darkness take steps to make your home appear occupied. Leave lights on or set lights on a timer to go on and off as your normal routine.
- Property mark your valuables and take photographs of them. Keep a list of make, model and any serial number. Register them for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Don't keep large amounts of cash at home.
- If you're going away, ask your neighbours to close curtains, remove post and put the bins out. Also make sure you cancel newspapers, milk etc.
- When you're at home, look out for your neighbour's property.
- Never leave keys in the locks as this can make a burglar's job easier. Keep keys in a safe place out of view and away from your doors.



**SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY**

- Close and lock all windows and doors when you leave the house. A walk-in burglar may try several homes before finding one that is unlocked - Don't let it be yours!
- Dispose of gift packaging carefully. Only put your rubbish out just before collection and do your best to fold boxes inside out to avoid advertising your new purchases.
- Use dusk to dawn exterior lights. Burglars prefer the dark to stay hidden from view.
- Fit visible window locks to all windows.
- Lock and secure gates with a mortice lock or padlock bolts.
- Never leave spare keys hidden outside or hanging inside the letterbox. It's too obvious.
- A visible burglar alarm can make burglars think twice; get specialist advice and consult your insurance company.
- Keep your PIN (Personal Identity Number) separate from your bank cards. **ALWAYS COVER YOUR PIN** especially at checkouts. You don't know who is looking over your shoulder.
- Before inserting your card have a look at the machine to check it looks normal.
- Be vigilant when drawing money from ATMs.
- It's better to pay for items on a card rather than carrying large amounts of cash.

### **Parking**

### **Shopping Safely**

- Never leave your shopping or handbags unattended especially if you have stopped for a coffee. Avoid hanging your bag on the back of your chair. Busy environments lead to easy distraction and the opportunity to steal your bags.
- Keep wallets, purses, mobile phones and tablets out of sight and bags secure, at all times.
- Park in a busy well-lit area or a secure car park if possible.
- Close windows, sunroof, lock doors & activate the security alarm when leaving your car.
- Take valuables with you and if you have no choice make sure they are covered and locked in the boot.
- Never leave your car unattended with the engine running, your insurance won't cover you if it's stolen.
- For police assistance dial **999** in an emergency or if a crime is in progress, and in a non-emergency, please dial **101**.



Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829. He set out nine principles for policing. The First Principle was:

**“To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.”**



[Click here for further Crime Reduction Advice](#)

More general information can be found at

<https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/@1.htm>

**Secured by Design (SBD)** tests and assesses the quality security products and crime prevention projects. It supports the principles of ‘designing out crime’ through physical security and processes.

We advise that you look on the SBD website for all of your Security products.

<http://www.securedbydesign.com/>



More Security Products can also be found at:

<http://www.soldsecure.com/>



You can always report intelligence or information anonymously to Crimestoppers

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



**Call us on 101. In an emergency always dial 999**