

Christmas is drawing closer and we wish you a very enjoyable and joyful time. However remember that for thieves it can be a very lucrative period. Don't let them spoil things for you. Be on guard and take care to keep yourself and your property safe.

### KEEP SAFE WHILE OUT SHOPPING

Thieves find it easy to operate when shops are busy

- Keep your purse/wallet and mobile phone close to your body.
- Don't carry too much cash.
- If you use the car don't leave presents in view. Lock all doors and windows.
- If you need to return to your car to leave gifts during your shopping trip the move the car to another area as thieves are sometimes on watch and may break into your car when you leave it. Lakeside shopping centre offers a locker service for a small charge which allows you to leave shopping and collect it at the end of your shop.
- Carrying too many bags can be a distraction – make smaller shopping trips rather than getting it all at once.



### KEEP SAFE AT HOME

Having bought all your Christmas present, don't make it easy for someone to steal from your home.

- Do not display your tree with gifts in your front window. This is an invitation to thieves
- If hiding presents in sheds/outbuildings, make sure they are kept secure and out of view.
- Check that your insurance covers the extra value of presents
- After opening presents remember that empty boxes left outside advertise your new gifts – dispose of packaging carefully.
- Note down the frame/serial number of new goods.



### IF YOU GO AWAY

- Ask a trusted neighbour to watch your house.
- Use an automatic timer for lights to give the impression that someone is at home. Most burglars are opportunists.
- Cancel newspaper and milk deliveries. Ask a neighbour to check that post/leaflets are pushed completely through the letter box.
- Ask a family member to collect your post and to store it away until your return.

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