

Top Tips to remain safe and crime-free over the festive period



THEFT from Motor VEHICLE

- Before you leave your car, ensure that all windows and doors are locked. Always double-check the doors are secure, do not just rely on a key fob.
- Avoid leaving presents in the vehicle whenever possible. If you do have to leave your purchases in your vehicle for any reason, make sure they are hidden in the boot and not on display. Also make sure that all electrical items are switched off including the Bluetooth function.
- Make sure that nobody is watching you conceal presents in the boot of your car...the person could be a thief-in-waiting.
- Make sure you park your vehicle in well lit, busy areas. For additional security, look out for car parks which are 'Park Mark' approved.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition while your vehicle is unattended. Avoid leaving the keys in the ignition whilst you are scraping ice from the windows. Cars with the engines running are easy targets for thieves.



BURGLARY Dwelling

- Property mark all presents and valuables with your postcode, house number or name. You can also register items with a serial number at www.immobilise.com You should keep a note of all model numbers and serial numbers for all electrical items.
- Keep presents out of view. Placing presents under the Christmas tree in view of a window will draw attention to your property and will be an attraction for burglars.
- Be cautious when using social media. Don't 'check-in' to places and advertise that you are not at home.
- Invest in security features - you can purchase timers to open and close your curtains or turn on your lights when you are away from your home. Better still, ask a family member or trusted friend to keep an eye on your property and pop in at random times of day to open/close curtains.
- Invest in a burglar alarm. These are free from London Borough of Hillingdon if you are over 65. Burglar alarms act as a deterrent to burglars. Also consider CCTV at your property.
- Dispose of boxes discreetly. Do not advertise to potential burglars that you have received/purchased high value items for Christmas.



Personal SAFETY

- **DON'T** drink and drive. Remember you may still be over the limit the morning after consuming alcohol.
- When Christmas shopping, be cautious not to carry too many high value items at the same time. Don't make yourself a target to thieves.
- Don't leave your bag unattended and make sure it is closed at all times. Be aware of pickpockets.
 - Plan your journey home. If you intent to use a taxi, make sure it is registered.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From your North Sector Local Policing Team,
Ruislip Police Station

