



Wishing you a safe and
happy Christmas from
West Midlands Police

For further advice call **101** or visit
www.west-midlands.police.uk

Contact the independent crime-fighting
charity Crimestoppers anonymously on
0800 555 111 with information about
crime

In an emergency dial **999**



Christmas Safety Guide

All you need to know to
keep safe at Christmas



Keep your home secure

- **Securely lock all doors and windows** before going out or going to bed. Use a timer device to switch lights on after dark.
- Don't put presents under the tree until the last possible moment – and **close curtains** so your gifts can't be seen from the street.
- **Mark your postcode** on new presents with a UV pen. Note down the serial number and record it at www.immobilise.com so if it is ever stolen, you're more likely to get it back.
- After Christmas, **remove** any trace of expensive gift packaging by taking discarded boxes to the tip or recycling centre.



Keep your car safe

- **Check your fob has done its job** – don't assume your vehicle is secure, always check doors and windows are locked before you walk away.
- **Remove valuables** such as sat navs, MP3 players, laptops, tablets, coats and loose change before leaving the vehicle.
- **Wipe away** tell-tale suction marks from the windscreen – this may alert a thief to your sat nav being hidden inside the vehicle.
- **Don't advertise** what you've bought by leaving gifts on show while you return to the shops – lock everything away in the boot. Take shopping inside immediately when you get home.

Freeze out car thieves

- **Don't leave** your vehicle unattended and the engine running while it defrosts – a thief could drive off with it.
- Stay with your vehicle and if you're in a rush, use **de-icing spray** and a scraper to speed up the process.
- **Sit inside** your vehicle while the heater de-mists the windscreen.
- **Claims on insurance** policies can be affected if the vehicle owner is deemed partly responsible for the theft.



Love your phone

- **Be discreet** – keep your phone and other valuables out of sight in public.
- Note down the **unique IMEI number** – you will need this number to report a stolen phone. Key *#06# into your mobile to display this number on screen.
- **Listen to your instincts** – know your route, avoid dark places and if you don't feel safe, move to a busier area.
- Trace lost or stolen phones by activating the **in-built tracker app** or by downloading a reputable one from your app store.



Beat the pickpockets

- **Keep handbags closed** and close to you, and wallets out of back pockets.
- **Try not to** overload yourself with bags and coats.
- **Don't leave** pushchairs, shopping bags or trolleys unattended. Take personal belongings with you into changing rooms.
- **Be discreet** when handling cash and cards at the till and at cash machines – put them away immediately and keep an eye on who is around.

Socialise safely

- Pubs, restaurants and other venues will be **crowded**, so don't hang bags over the back of your chair and keep wallets and purses close to your body.
- Have fun but **drink sensibly** – binge drinking and excessive drinking at home before a night out puts you at risk of crime. Never leave drinks unattended or accept them from strangers.
- Find out the times of the last tram, train or bus home, or **pre-book a taxi** from a local licensed operator.
- **Never drive** under the influence of drink or drugs.

