

## Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas from West Midlands Police

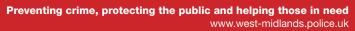
For further advice call **101** or visit **www.west-midlands.police.uk** 

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

# Christmas Safety Guide

All you need to know to keep safe at Christmas

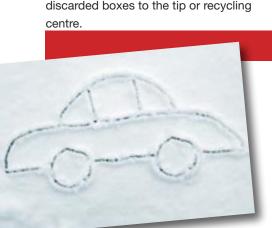






#### Keep your home secure

- 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



#### 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.



#### Keep your car safe

- Check your fob has done its job don't assume vour 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.



#### 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.





### Keep handbags closed and

close to you, and wallets out of back pockets.

Beat the pickpockets

- 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.

