



1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

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SAFETY TIPS AT XMAS

1. Check your doors and windows

Weak points in doors, locks and windows are the most likely way for a thief to enter your home, according to data from the Office for National Statistics.

Property expert Thomas Goodman said: "Many people believe that a burglar would never enter through the front door.

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"Seasoned burglars know exactly where to search for the spare key you've 'hidden'."

A spokesperson for comparethemarket.com added: "When checking your entry points for weak spots, ensure you're keeping your doors' strike plates as securely fastened as possible (the metal plate affixed to where your door locks).

"You can also consider purchasing protective covers for your locks."

Make sure you check all entry points before you go out or go to bed.

2. If you're away, don't make it obvious

Things like lights off, no car in the drive and bins out for collection all indicate to potential criminals that no one is home.

Using lights or a radio on a timer can be a clever way to use technology to confuse a thief who might be keeping an eye on your home.

If you have friendly neighbours, ask them to help by taking your bin out and occasionally parking in your drive. But note that burglars are often known to their victims - don't ask anyone for help if you don't trust them.

NimbleFins Insurance, which analysed crime and burglary statistics from the annual Crime Survey for England and Wales, concluded: "One in four burglary incidents are perpetrated by someone the victim knows well; in one in five cases they are known by sight or to speak to.

"The burglars are complete strangers in just over half of incidents (57 percent)."

3. Don't advertise your gifts

Many people in the UK like to put their Christmas tree up in their front window and pile gifts up beneath it. This might look good to your neighbours, but it's just an advertisement for a thief.

The same goes for social media - don't make a big show of the valuable content you have in your home.

James Bores from Bores Security Consultancy said: "It's fairly easy for someone with the right knowledge of searching to identify someone, find their address, work out where the picture was taken, friends, relatives, workmates, where and when they go on holiday, and almost anything else that's ever been made public."

4. Get some insurance

Buildings and contents insurance will cover your home if there is a break-in - as long as you have met all of the policy requirements.

Check with your insurance company if any alarms and/or security cameras you have must be activated every time you leave the property unoccupied.

Photograph your possessions and keep the pictures safe, and, with Christmas presents and other new purchases, keep hold of the receipts. These will be proof of ownership if you need to claim.



GUN CRIME

Officers made 17 arrests and seized six firearms during a week of intensified action to tackle gun crime in London.

Tactics included targeted patrols in the parts of the capital most impacted by gun violence as well as weapon sweeps carried out in partnership with community members. Officers seized items including:

- A live 2.2 Berringer hand pistol
- A live .38 Rimfire Calibre revolver with four rounds of ammunition
- Four suspected blank firearms
- One stun gun
- Class A drugs
- Class B drugs (Including Imported skunk cannabis with an estimated value of £20,000)

The operation ran from Monday, 21 November to Sunday, 27 November.

Of the 17 people arrested, 12 were charged, recalled to prison or have appeared in court. Two men, one aged in his 20s and the other in his 50s, were charged with conspiracy to murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The charges relate to a series of four shootings in west London. Both men have been remanded in custody.

The Met continues to work tirelessly with partners and forces across the country to dismantle organised criminal groups facilitating the importation, manufacture and transportation of firearms around the UK.

This week of action is just one strand of work contributing towards our long-term strategy of reducing violence and gun crime in London. Met officers have been involved in hard-hitting surges of activity targeting the crimes people care about.

The aims are simple:

- To disrupt and arrest those who cause the most harm and impact on our communities.
- To protect the public – particularly the most vulnerable.



BURGLAR FACTS

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A sure giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your front door
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house, i.e. during the school run or holidays
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard; if they feel that they might be noticed by a neighbour/passersby then they are more likely to move on to find somewhere else to burgle
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence
- Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home
- Many burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary.

BIKE THEFT

Just 1% of the more than 18,800 bike thefts in London in the last year saw thieves charged or cautioned, according to police statistics.

According to the Metropolitan Police figures, which were collated and analysed by London criminal defence solicitors Lawtons, there were only 206 sanctions recorded between November 2021 and October 2022 despite the huge number of thefts.

The boroughs of Hackney, Southwark and Tower Hamlets recorded the most thefts though the total amount of bikes reported stolen was actually down 18% throughout the capital as a whole compared to the previous year.

In two boroughs, Croydon and Havering, no thieves were sanctioned despite there being 325 offences reported across them.

The Met said it was not possible to carry out in-depth investigations in every case due to the number of calls but London Cycling Campaign said it would “deter people from cycling”.

Its senior policy officer Tom Bogdanowicz told the BBC the true number of crimes was “significantly higher” than reported figures and said up to a quarter of bike theft victims never cycle again.

He said: “It’s not good for the city, because if there’s less cycling then there are more emissions from cars, more congestion, and people’s health isn’t improving.

“Building cycling infrastructure is an excellent way of encouraging cycling, but if people have their bikes stolen then you lose customers.”

The Met acknowledged bike thefts were “upsetting and very frustrating for victims”, but added: “It is not possible to physically send officers, or to carry out a lengthy investigation, in every case”.



LOCAL CRIME

Assault in Camden

Two women were seriously injured when a man threw a canister at them in Camden. Police were called in the early hour on Sunday, 30 October to Great Russell Street, WC1.

They found two women - aged 21 and 18 - suffering serious head injuries following the incident that took place shortly after 04:00hrs. They were both taken to hospital where the older victim was found to have suffered a fractured skull. The second victim had suffered injuries to her face and head. Both victims' injuries were later assessed as not life-threatening or life-changing.

It was established that the women had been out at a club in Bloomsbury when a verbal altercation began with a man they'd met during the course of the evening. He then threw a canister at the victims before leaving the scene.



Sexual Assault North Finchley

A man who abducted a young girl from a bus stop and sexually assaulted her in a nearby park has been jailed.

Samuel Corte was jailed for nine years at Harrow Crown Court on Thursday, 10 November after pleading guilty to sexual assault of a child under the age of 13. He was also sentenced to three years and nine months' imprisonment for child abduction.

The incident happened at around 16:00hrs on 30 September 2021 as an 11-year-old girl was at a bus stop near Sussex Ring, N12. Cortez approached her and intimated he was in possession of a knife before grabbing her by the wrist and leading her to a nearby park.

He then sexually assaulted the girl before leaving the area.



Happy Holidays & New Year!

Wishing all of our customers a very Happy Holidays and a happy and healthy New Year!

