



Prevent Christmas Crime — Winter

Keep your home secure

- **Securely lock all doors and windows** before going out or 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.
- 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 door 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.

Car thieves

- **Don't leave your vehicle unattended** with 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 a process.
- **Sit inside** your vehicle whilst the heater de-mists the windscreen.
- **Claims on insurance** policies can be affected if the vehicle owner is deemed partly responsible for the theft.



Socialise safety

- 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 and **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.



Beat the pick pockets

- **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.

Stay safe on your festive nights out

Never leave your drink unattended
On route out or home? Avoid travelling alone
Ensure you use a licensed cab or pre-booked taxi
Lock up! Lights on!

SAFER STUDENTS

Don't give burglars an early Christmas

Heading home for the end of term?
Lock your windows and doors
Take your valuables with you
Don't leave items visible from your windows and doors
Don't advertise your empty house on social media

SAFER STUDENTS

CARD COLLECT IS A CON

Help police - pass it on

Together we can stop courier fraud
www.west-midlands.police.uk

Tackle Robbery

Be discreet on the street – keep your phone, mp3 player, jewellery and other valuables out of sight.

Stay alert – don't let headphones block out traffic, strangers or potential trouble.

Listen to your instincts – know your route, avoid dark places and if you don't feel safe, move to a busier area.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas from West Midlands Police

For further advice call **101** or visit **www.west-midlands.police.uk**. In an emergency dial **999**.

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

If you require any further crime prevention advice or interested in becoming a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, please contact Pete sturgeon at Coventry Central Police station on 101 ext. 834 3073 or email peter.sturgeon@westmidlands.police.uk