

CRIMESTOPPERS
PROPERTY
PROTECTOR

HELP US STAMP OUT CRIME – A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Stealth Mark Europe
PO Box 5236, Warwick, CV34 9LS

CRIMESTOPPERS **PROPERTY PROTECTOR**

Help us stamp out crime by taking some practical steps to protect yourself and your property.

By following some simple practical suggestions you can help reduce your risk of being a victim of crime and protect yourself, your home and your property. It is important to remember most crime levels are going down and that most crime is against property, not people. Also a large amount of crime is opportunistic where thieves see an open window or valuables on display.

Following a few practical suggestions can make a big difference. By securing your home and property, you can help prevent yourself being a victim of crime.

Homes and Property



Vehicles



Personal



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Help Us Stamp Out Crime. A practical guide to crime prevention

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Protecting your home and property



Home Security

Even just basic home security can dramatically reduce your chances of getting burgled. Most are not pre-planned; they're committed by opportunist thieves and burglars will tend to target properties without visible signs of security, such as security lighting or alarm bell boxes. Households are more than twice as likely to be burgled if they've been burgled in the previous four years.

Simple measures

- › Don't leave doors and windows open or unlocked. Sounds obvious but in hot weather it is tempting to leave a window or two open. Even if you're just popping out for a few minutes lock up behind you.
- › Make your home look occupied. Use timer lights and if away ask neighbours to bring in post and open / close curtains.
- › Window locks help secure windows against being forced open. On doors use deadlocks for doors as they make it harder for a thief to get out again. If you are installing new windows think about security and ensure they are to the appropriate British Standard (BS).
- › Don't leave keys near the front door where they could be removed through the letter box or window opening. Only leave spare keys outside if in a secure locked key box.
- › If you live in a flat keep it secure by never 'buzzing' open the door for strangers or letting someone who is arriving just as you are leaving or entering the building.

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Take security to another level

- › Burglars don't like visual alarms or security lighting so if you install an alarm from a recognised provider ensure potential burglars know you are protected. Security lights don't need to be expensive and are very effective. Make sure that lights don't disturb your neighbours and that burglar alarms turn off after 20 minutes.
- › Fences and walls at the back of the house add security but also effective are prickly bushes and shrubs. Make sure you don't create an area where a burglary could hide though.
- › Security on garages and sheds is just as important. Use good quality locks. Remember you store cycles and garden equipment in sheds and garages and this is a target for thieves. Tools can also be used to help a burglar break into your home so keep them locked away.
- › A spy hole in the front door allows you to see who is at the door and a door security chain lets you open the door a little way to talk to the caller.
- › Join your local neighbourhood Watch group to pool resources and watch out for each other's property.
- › An investment in security not only protects your home but can add value to your property.

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Property Marking and Registration



Designed with the
Police for the Police

Thieves do not like marked property as it makes it hard to sell on. You can put them off by marking your property and placing deterrent stickers in your windows to advertise this.

Mark for good

Why is it a good idea to mark our property? If you have property stolen and the police find the thief, would you want them convicted? Chances are you will say yes. And if asked if you want your property back, especially if the item is of sentimental value, you will again say yes. But how can the police prove it's stolen if it's **not** marked or you recorded as the rightful owner?

Marking property makes it more difficult for the criminal to dispose of and far more likely that they will be convicted if caught in possession.

Make it difficult for the thief

- › Permanently and visibly mark property with an ACPO/Secured By Design accredited asset and property marking product.
- › Register your items and the unique codes allocated to you on Immobilise.com. This UK property registration database is used by police to identify the rightful owners of lost or stolen property.
- › Advertise the fact you have marked your property with window and door deterrent stickers.
- › Try and mark any item around the house and the garden. Don't forget jewellery, sports equipment and garden tools.

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Vehicle Security



Simple Measures

- › Don't leave personal items in your car on view. If you can't take your personal items with you, lock them in the boot. Remove Satellite Navigation devices, including the suction mounting kits, and removable radio fronts. Don't leave personal items in your glove box.
- › Lock the doors, close windows and sunroofs even if the car is only left for a moment, say while paying for petrol.
- › Keep your car keys safe. Do not leave them inside your car or in the ignition. Don't leave your keys in clothing or near the front door at home. Keys are often targeted as it is easier than trying to defeat the car security system.
- › If possible store your car in your garage - it is safer there. Remember to lock the garage as well as the car.
- › Try to park in a well-lit, open place or supervised car park good lighting and security. Avoid parking in dark spots.

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Security devices



Ask your insurance company for advice on installing security devices as they may offer you a discount on certain approved security products. Some insurance companies may also refuse to insure certain car makes and models unless a particular security device is installed.

Security devices include:

- Electronic engine immobiliser.
 - Alarm system.
 - Central locking and automatic locking.
 - Double-locking doors.
 - Steering wheel lock.
 - GPS Tracking devices.
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- › Immobilise and alarm your vehicle every time you leave it unattended.
 - › Ensure that any security device is fitted by a professional and look for a Thatcham approved device.
 - › Use property marking products to mark your car equipment, such as your car stereo and satellite navigation device as these can be easily removed.
 - › Protect your wheels and tyres by fitting locking wheel nuts/bolts.

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Personal Safety



The chances of becoming a victim of violent crime or being a victim of fraud or identify theft are low. You can make yourself even less likely to be the victim by taking a few sensible common sense precautions.

Simple Measures

- › You will be safest in bright, well-lit and busy areas. Avoid dark side streets.
- › Act confidently. Be alert to your surroundings and look as if you know where you are going.
- › If someone does try to take something from you, it may be better to let them take it, rather than risking injury.
- › Don't advertise your valuables such as your mobile phone, jewellery or watch. Don't be an easy target; keep your valuables out of sight.
- › In crowded areas keep your bag closed and ensure your pockets are inaccessible.
- › When using public transport plan your route and sit near other people and where it is well lit. If someone makes you feel unsafe move near the driver if you are on a bus or near other people.
- › Always pre-book a taxi or mini cab and never get in to an unlicensed taxi or mini cab. If in doubt don't get in. Where possible ask to be let out in a lit area where other people are around.
- › Avoid using a cashpoint if there are suspicious looking people around it and check to see if there are any suspicious looking devices or evidence that the cashpoint has been tampered with.

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Identity Protection

You personal details can be very valuable to criminals, they can use them to open bank accounts, get credit cards, loans and benefits in your name. They are after documents in your name, such as a driving licence or a passport or documents that include your name, date of birth, address, National Insurance (NI) number or and bank and credit card details.



Simple Measures

- › Never give personal, account details or PIN numbers to anyone who contacts you unexpectedly, either by phone, post, email or in person. Banks will not ask for you to confirm your details in emails or ask for PIN's.
- › Destroy unwanted documents that contain personal details or receipts with your credit card details. Use a shredder.
- › If your passport, driving licence or credit card has been lost or stolen, report it to the issuer immediately.
- › Use one of the main credit reference agencies to get a copy of your personal credit file This will help you to find out if someone else is applying for credit in your name.
- › If you move house, tell your bank, credit card companies and all other organisations with which you do business. The Royal Mail's redirection service can ensure that your post arrives at your new address.
- › Check bank and credit card statements as soon as they arrive and report any unfamiliar transactions to your bank or credit card companies.
- › On the internet, always use a different password for each account. Do not use family names or dates of birth as passwords. Make sure your computer has up-to-date anti-virus software

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Useful Contacts

Protecting your home and property

www.direct.gov.uk/homesecurity

www.crp-news.com

www.ourwatch.org.uk

www.securedhome.co.uk

www.direct.gov.uk/vehiclecrime

www.thatcham.org

Vehicle Security

Personal Safety

www.identitytheft.org.uk/

www.SuzyLamplugh.org

www.victimsupport.org.uk

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Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent charity working to find criminals and help solve crimes. It is not part of the police service or any branch of the government.

By calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or logging onto www.crimestoppers-uk.org you can pass on information about crime, anonymously. You are never asked your name and your call or online form will never be traced or recorded. Most importantly because Crimestoppers is anonymous you needn't fear reprisals because no one will know who you are and you will not have to give a statement to police and you will not go to court. If your information leads to the arrest and charge of an individual, you could be entitled to a cash reward.

For more information about Crimestoppers visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org



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Crimestoppers Property Protector

CRIMESTOPPERS PROPERTY PROTECTOR is produced by Stealth Mark under license for the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers.

What is Crimestoppers Property Protector?

Crimestoppers Property Protector is a branded version of a property protection product that uses Stealth Mark technologies, StealthMark and StealthCode, to provide a unique coded asset / property marking solution.

The property protection product is a clear liquid solution, each bottle containing a combination of microparticles which provide a unique code number, the StealthCode. Simply by dabbing a small amount on to the customer assets and property they will have a unique coded identity, a 'fingerprint', which is registered exclusively to the customer via the IMMOBILISE property registration database.

The 'fingerprint' can't be seen by the naked eye, and is virtually impossible to remove – but police can identify the coded particles, the StealthCode, using special cameras and software, on the spot if required, and reunite stolen items with their rightful owners.

For more information about Crimestoppers visit www.crimestopperspropertyprotector.com



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Stealth Mark Europe is proud to be able to support Crimestoppers Trust in this crime-fighting initiative and help further their vision to reduce crime.

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Any questions?

Contact us on **0845 5193 999**
Or email us at:
info@crimestopperspropertyprotector.com

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