

Expensive possessions

- mark your possessions like a laptop, digital camera, jewellery and TVs with a property marking kit (available online)
- keep a photographic library of your jewellery by photographing each piece next to a ruler to give an indication of size.

How you can help us: Motor vehicle crime

- close your vehicle windows and sunroof; lock the doors and activate any security devices when leaving your car; double-check the doors are locked especially if using a remote key fob
- remove all your property from inside your vehicle when it is parked including cash, credit cards, mobile phones, iPods, sunglasses, shopping bags, vehicle documents and your Sat Nav and its holder
- fit anti-tamper screws to protect your number plates (available from good motor retailers)
- remove items such as ladders that you could take off your vehicle and put securely inside your property
- garage your vehicle or park it in the driveway, if possible
- alternatively park where the vehicle is well overlooked.

Further advice

You can obtain further crime prevention advice from your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team. You can get their number by dialing 101 or by visiting:

www.met.police.uk/sutton

Click on the link for Safer Neighbourhoods.

Also visit:

www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-and-preventing-crime--2>

Sutton is a low crime borough and one of the safest in London. Help us keep it that way.

Winter crime prevention advice



**Let's work
together
to tackle
burglary and
motor vehicle
crime during the
darker evenings**



Introduction

Criminals are known to take advantage of the earlier, darker evenings to target properties that look unoccupied before their owners get home - and to steal from vehicles, particularly if they have been left unlocked or with property left on display inside. Policing works best when we have the support of local communities. This leaflet is about how you can help us make your area even safer.

Police operations

Like all London boroughs, Sutton has an action plan during the dark winter months to tackle the seasonal peak in burglary and other crimes. These plans are being run by your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team supported by specialist teams and partner organisations like Sutton Council, Sutton Housing Partnership and other registered social landlords. Police officers are being deployed based on crime patterns and intelligence from local neighbourhoods to concentrate on areas most likely to be targeted.

How you can help us: Burglary

There are a number of steps you can take to make your home less likely to be targeted by burglars. Our advice includes:

- use timers on lights, radios and audio systems to come on when it gets dark: change the rooms used and times to avoid predictability. This will make it look like you are in, even when you are out
- install exterior lights to light up dark corners outside your home such as a system which can activate single or multiple lights when someone comes into its field of vision
- keep plants and hedges trimmed: privacy for you is also privacy for the burglar
- leave your front door and vehicle keys in a secure place out of sight and reach of your front door to prevent a potential burglar 'fishing' for the key through the letterbox
- remove back door keys from locks and place them out of sight
- use your key to lock your multi-point UPVC door otherwise it won't be locked
- always remember to keep doors and windows locked.

Be a vigilant resident

You are likely to know your street and the movements of your local neighbours, such as when your next door neighbour's home is likely to be occupied and when it's likely to be empty. Call us on 999 immediately if you:

- see anyone you don't recognise acting suspiciously near your own or your neighbours' properties
- hear an unexpected loud bang or series of bangs or smashing glass from next door when you know the owners are at work or away.

If it doesn't look right, or feel right, call us on 999 immediately. We would much rather come out to find that everything is OK, than to find a resident distressed because they have become a victim of crime. When you see people acting suspiciously try to:

- take a description of the suspects
- make a note of any vehicle they are using, such as its make and registration number.

Please don't assume that someone else will call us. Help keep you area safe by calling us yourself.

Christmas gifts

- keep your gifts out of sight until as close to Christmas as possible
- record the frame numbers of new bicycles and serial numbers of computer equipment and other electrical goods for future reference
- if you hide or store larger items such as bicycles in your shed or garage, make sure they are locked away securely
- check your home insurance to make sure you are covered for your family's gifts to each other – some of these may be expensive items
- remember empty packaging and boxes left outside your home for rubbish collection after Christmas are an immediate giveaway to the fact that you have new goods inside. So dispose of packing carefully
- if you go away for the holiday period ask a trusted neighbour to watch your home.