

Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for THE FESTIVE SEASON



1. Check the NSW Fair Trading website for product recalls as we approach Xmas, eg toys, Xmas tree lights, etc. www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.
2. Lock all windows when in the open position with a maximum 10cm gap. Please don't plug Xmas decorations inside the house and pass the cable through the window for outside display! Ensure you know of the available fire prevention advice regarding trees, overloading, candles etc: www.fire.nsw.gov.au.
3. Please remove parcels from display inside your car. Covering with a blanket may not work.
4. Before Xmas, don't leave the Xmas presents under the Xmas tree if they can be seen from the windows, or by visitors when you answer the door. After Xmas, remove from view any packaging that came with any new expensive items.
5. If you go away, make your home look lived in: Lights on timer, washing on the line, TV (Note: a timer plug is available which emits light to emulate a TV), radio on timer, etc. Leave your normal answerphone message on the phone.
6. If you go away, ask a neighbour or friend for their help: park on your driveway, put out/take in the bins, empty the letter box, clear the freebie newspapers from in front of the house, mow the council strip, etc. Inform the neighbours and share emergency contact numbers.
7. If you go away, consider putting a hold on your post. Don't forget to cancel any newspapers. Ensure the letterbox is regularly emptied.
8. Beware pick-pocketers in shopping malls. Keep your bags close to your body. Consider carrying your wallet in a front trouser pocket.
9. At the beach, allocate a person to watch your gear when you go in the sea. Bring only the minimum valuables. Consider use of a waterproof bag and/or nappy pin. Consider locking valuables away from view in a hiding place within your car boot. Do not leave keys hidden on the car.

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| FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property) | 000 |
| TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers) | 1800 333 000 |
| TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line) | 131 444 |
| IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station) | 9476 9799 |
| TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP | 106 |
| SPEAK AND LISTEN | 1 800 555 727 |

10. If you have a party, lock the front door. Consider allocating someone to monitor guests coming in/out. Thieves aren't deterred by a house full of people!
11. Hide any spare house keys very carefully. Thieves know the typical places: under door mats, plant pots, fake rocks, or just inside the garage door.
12. Consider reviewing your security systems and lighting. Thieves are not fooled by fake or faulty security. Set your alarm EVERY time you leave your home.
13. Do not share anything on Social Media to indicate you are on holiday. If possible, avoid setting up auto-replies to emails. [See also '[Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Travel](#)' and WatchOut.org.au/Travel/.]
14. Consider temporary travel locks, or a simple door wedge to secure hotel doors. See also info from the Travel page on our watchout.org.au/travel/ website and our 20 Tips for Travel on our nhwkuringgaihornsby.org.au/tips/ website.
15. Beware allowing parcels to be delivered to your empty house doorstep. Thieves follow delivery vans. Consider requesting a FREE 24/7 parcel locker, or have mail held at the local post office. Maybe ask family or neighbours to help out?
16. Consider the deterrent of a dog. Put a dog bowl, warning sign, lead, tennis ball etc. at the front of your property. Consider a plug-in that attaches to sensor lighting and emulates a dog barking. See other 20 Tips for your home on our nhwkuringgaihornsby.org.au/tips/ website.
17. If you are going on a road trip, check your car's safety before you travel. Service your vehicle, tyres and trailer. Check the safety of any load or trailer: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/towing.html.
18. If you are going on a road trip, secure any pet with a dog belt/pet cage/seat belt. Plan entertainment for any children so they are not a distraction to the driver. Stay hydrated and get fresh air. Check your route. Plan frequent rest stops. Swap drivers regularly.
19. If you are going on a road trip, expect traffic delays especially noon-9pm on the first and last days of school holidays. Beware wildlife at dawn and avoid them.
20. If you are leaving vehicles behind, hide the keys, or take them with you.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.

Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaihornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

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