

Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for **LETTERBOXES**



1. Do keep your letterbox locked. Remember, a lock is not a lock unless you use it. Consider using a 'tubular pin tumbler lock' which cannot be copied.



2. Do empty your letterbox each day.
3. Do consider a post office box (P.O. Box) for secure items. For example, credit cards, cheque books.
4. Do monitor the time-of-day mail is delivered. The postal worker tends to have a routine.
5. Do be alert for missing bank or credit card statements, etc. If one is missing, investigate. Contact Australia Post to check that your mail is not being re-directed without your knowledge.
6. Know your letterbox is perfect for 'identity theft'. Thieves love your date of birth, middle initial, tax file number, bank accounts, Medicare number, loan information, etc.
7. Reduce and remove unwanted junk mail. You can get various 'no junk mail' and 'addressee only' stickers to reduce the amount of literature delivered to you.



8. Ask a friend or neighbour to clear your letterbox while you are away on holiday.
9. Consider a 'hold' on your mail whilst you are away. (Also known as 'stopping the mail'.)
10. Support your local neighbourhood watch group. (Don't know? Phone Hornsby police station and ask for the crime prevention officer. Isn't one in your area? Maybe offer to organise something yourself?)

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

11. Get up-to-date information from your local police at www.facebook.com/kuringgaipac and your neighbourhood watch online group: www.facebook.com/nhwkuringgaihornsby . Consider receiving the weekly enewsletter which carries warnings about crimes such as these, available from: nhwkuringgaihornsby@gmail.com.
12. Do report anything/anyone suspicious to *Crime Stoppers on 800 333 000*. For example, if you believe someone is tampering with the mail. You can remain anonymous. There is a reward available for information leading to a conviction (even if anonymous).
13. Do 'return to sender' any previous resident's mail. (Note: it is illegal to bin it!)
14. Advise your postal worker if you are expecting a larger than usual package, or...
15. Advise the postal delivery centre that if no one is home, then a card should be left, for item pick-up from a post office at your convenience, or...
16. Do be wary of having a parcel delivered if you are not at home. Consider asking a trusted neighbour for assistance.
17. If you have regular parcel deliveries, consider getting a larger letterbox.
18. If your letterbox isn't secure, arrange for it to be made secure, through your strata management (if applicable), or through a local tradesman. Is it time for a new letterbox? Should the locks be replaced with a 'tubular pin tumbler lock'? (See tip #1)
19. Be a good neighbour and offer to collect the mail for those incapacitated, socially isolated, or away from home.
20. Know your neighbours. Connecting with the community builds a safer community. It allows more people to watch over your home, and letterbox. Good neighbours are the best watch dogs!

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. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or at our [website](#). Contact us at: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.