



Who will you be
giving presents to
this year?



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

Christmas isn't just a time for giving. It's also a time for taking. Burglars are very active at this time of year.

What are burglars looking for?

Burglars want you to make their lives easier. Ideally they're looking for a property where nobody's home, with poor security. They're looking for: open side gates, windows left open, ladders and garden tools left out to gain entry, and high hedges or fences so they can't be seen. Make your house less appealing to burglars and you're less likely to be targeted.

How can you deter burglars?

- Fit proper locks on windows and doors. And remember to use them.
- Never leave a spare key concealed near the front door (burglars know all the hiding places).
- Stop letterbox burglaries by storing keys away from the front door.
- Install timers which switch lights or radios on and off automatically.
- If you go out after dark, draw the curtains and leave some lights on.
- Don't label house keys, in case you lose them.
- If you live in a flat don't let strangers in via the entry phone system.
- Try and keep valuables out of sight from windows. That includes Christmas presents.

What if you're away over Christmas?

- Cancel milk and newspapers.
- Set your burglar alarm. And if you don't have an alarm, invest in a dummy box.
- Ask a friend, neighbour or relative to keep an eye on your property and clear the letterbox or doorstep.
- If a neighbour or relative has a key ask them to draw the curtains and put lights on at night.
- Encourage a neighbour to park in your drive.

For more information visit www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention