



## Community Safety News

### Hampshire Constabulary

#### Doorstep crime

Hampshire Constabulary uses the term “doorstep crime” to describe distraction burglary and rogue trading. Offenders knock on the door pretending to be someone else. They distract the resident to gain entry and steal items from inside, sometimes with an accomplice. Offenders may pretend to have lost a pet or claim they need to use a home phone. They may claim they are from a council, utility supplier or even the police.

#### Our advice is: Not sure? Don't open the door.

- **Lock:** All doors, even when at home. Use a chain or spy hole.
- **Stop:** Unknown people from entering.
- **Tell:** Police about unwanted or suspicious callers—phone 101.

For more information, visit [the doorstep crime prevention campaign page](#) on Hampshire Constabulary website [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

### Operation Stronghold

Safer North Hampshire community safety team, together with Hampshire Constabulary, will be running an Operation Stronghold event at Morrisons, in Farnborough on September 23, from 11am—1pm. The event is designed to provide general crime prevention advice and raise awareness about personal safety.



### Avoid becoming a victim of crime

Residents and car owners are reminded to be vigilant to avoid becoming victims of crime. The advice is to encourage people to take sensible safety precautions to ensure their home and property remains safe whether at home or on holiday.

Keep windows and doors secure, make homes look lived in by leaving a light on or using automatic timer switches for lights and radios.

Do not discuss holiday plans in front of strangers or post details on social networking sites in advance or while on holiday. If possible, ask a trusted neighbour or a friend to keep an eye on the house and outbuildings. Sheds should be secured by fitting a good quality padlock. Check that house insurance covers items in sheds, garages and outbuildings.

When parking, remember to lock vehicles and do not leave the windows open, even in hot weather. Never leave dogs or children alone in hot vehicles, even for a few minutes.



Never leave items on display. Don't hide it - if you hide items under the seat or in the glove box, chances are someone will have watched you. If you cannot avoid leaving something in your car, put it in your boot before you begin your journey. Don't leave your car unlocked on your driveway - nearly half of all incidents where items are stolen from cars happen when they are parked overnight, close to the owner's home.

Don't leave your house keys or anything with your address on it in your vehicle - someone could steal your keys and then let themselves into your home. More information is available on the Safer North Hampshire website, [www.safernh.co.uk](http://www.safernh.co.uk) or the Hampshire Constabulary website, [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)



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