

Before you even set foot outside of your home there are several steps you can take to protect your personal possessions from being lost or stolen.

- Keep your cheque guarantee cards separate from your cheque book; a thief needs both to write a cheque.
- Never carry your personal identification number (PIN) with your cash dispensing cards.
- Mark your mobile phone with indelible pen, including the battery and the battery cover.
- Make a note of your mobile phone's unique International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number by dialling *#06#. Keep this number in a safe place.
- Register your mobile phone and other valuables with Immobilise, the world's largest free searchable property register: www.immobilise.com. If your mobile phone is lost or stolen call the Immobilise mobile phone crime line on 08701 123 123 to have the phone blocked.



The majority of crimes in the UK are property related rather than being against people. These include burglary, vehicle theft, vandalism/criminal damage and other theft.

Violent crimes against the person by strangers remain uncommon, but it is still important to take personal safety seriously. Follow the personal safety information in this leaflet and make sure you don't become a statistic.

For further advice and information on improving your personal safety, visit the Hampshire Constabulary website at: **www.hampshire.police.uk**

Alternatively call 0845 045 45 45 and ask to speak to your local crime prevention officer.

Additional contacts:

Home Office — the government department responsible for reducing and preventing crime:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/

Know Your Limits — advice on drinking sensibly on a night out:
www.knowyourlimits.gov.uk

Cre Products Ltd — Cre Mark offers a unique property system for marking your possessions: www.creproducts.co.uk

Immobilise — to register your valuables in case of loss or theft:
www.immobilise.com

A guide to improving your personal safety



Personal safety in public places

By taking sensible precautions you can make yourself even less likely to become a victim of street crime.

- If you're walking alone stick to busy, well lit areas and try to look confident.
- Keep valuables out of sight – don't walk and talk on your mobile phone at the same time.
- Keep your purse or wallet out of sight and don't flash your cash.
- Keep bags and rucksacks closed, zipped and buckled.
- Try to withdraw money from a cash point in daylight or go with a friend if you can. At night, choose a well lit location.



- If someone tries to take something from you it may be better to let them have it rather than try to defend yourself.
- If you decide to defend yourself remember that your attacker might be stronger than you – it is often better just to shout loudly and run away.
- Shout 'fire' rather than 'help' – it can get more results.
- When out walking or jogging, don't listen to your MP3 player – you might not be able to hear someone approaching.

On a night out

Simple, sensible steps to help make your night out even safer.

- Think ahead – consider how you are going to get home. Pre-book a taxi or arrange a lift with a friend or family member. Use public transport rather than walk home alone.
- Don't drink too much – you will be an easy target for a robber.
- To prevent spiking, don't leave drinks unattended.
- Stick with your mates – you are more likely to be a target on your own.
- Walk with confidence and be wary of casual requests from strangers, like someone asking for a cigarette or change.
- If you suspect you are being followed, cross over the road to see if they follow. If you're still worried, don't hang about. Go into a pub or shop to call a friend to meet you.
- Have your house keys ready before you reach the door. Rummaging around for them means you're not looking at what's around you.



Staying safe when you're using public transport

On the bus

- Use a bus stop you know, or one that appears busy and well lit.
- Sit near to the driver.
- If you're going to an unfamiliar place, plan your route and arrange for friends to meet you at your destination.

On the train

- Wait on a well lit section of platform, near other people.
- Sit in a busy compartment at the front of the train.
- If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, move to another carriage or consider getting off the train altogether.

Taking a taxi

Genuine taxis are licensed by the local authority and should display a plate showing their licence number. Use a taxi company you know, or one recommended by family or friends.

- If you have booked a taxi over the phone, make sure the driver knows your name and destination, in order to ensure it's the correct taxi.
- Always sit behind the taxi driver in the back seat. If you feel uneasy ask the driver to stop in a busy, well lit place and get out of the car.
- Have your money and keys ready so that you can get into your home quickly at the end of your journey.