

## STOP THIEF! DO'S & DON'TS TO KEEP SAFE

During these darker days especially, there often are more house break-ins/robberies. As well as the loss of property involved, this also results in an invasion of privacy for the victim(s). If we can't stop these altogether, at least we should all work to make it as difficult as possible for the thief/thieves.

### Some DO's and DON'Ts:

#### DON'T

- Leave doors/windows open, or ladders, etc., around when you are out.
- Give personal/ financial data to phone callers. Use **different phone** to check if calls are authentic. Scammers don't hang up – but are still there.
- Tell strangers when your neighbours are or will not be at home.
- Allow strangers/tradesmen into your home unless you know they are genuine, especially so if you live alone.
- Leave any other door in the house unlocked while you are called to the one you answer. Shouldn't your doors be locked even while you are in?
- Buy from door sellers unless you know them. Beware bargains callers!
- Let a caller know you are alone in the house - act as if you are not.
- Let a stranger into your home; for drinks, to use the toilet, checking electric, water, etc. Any genuine callers should have an identity card and be willing to call back after you have checked them out. If you have concerns telephone QuickCheck on 0800 013 22 90. Beware phoney address or person inquiries, etc., - a ruse used to find if anyone is in.
- Keep excess money, valuables, etc., in the house if not needed.

#### DO

- Note registration nos. of cars, descriptions of people and times, when you have real suspicions. If in doubt ring police. Legitimate door to door traders must adhere to Doorstep Selling Regulations.
- Have a record of the serial nos., a photo and/or descriptions of your valuable property which could help identify it. **DO IT NOW!**
- Secure your purse (pockets) properly when out shopping. Beware bag and purse snatchers. Cancel cards and cheques immediately if stolen.
- Look after your neighbour's property also. Don't be nosy but be curious. If suspicious, investigate. Be careful when using ATM machines.
- Realise that a thief doesn't have to be over 18 or under 50 or male or wear a 'thief' badge or work in the dark or at night.
- Realise break-ins happen in both town and country areas. Leave someone protecting your home during funerals/weddings.
- Realise you can often obtain the last tel. number to call you, even if no one identifies themselves, by dialling 1471. Note such nos. and times of calls. Never give any information to anonymous/unfamiliar tel. callers.
- It only takes minutes to raid a house. Lock your car at all times, Hide **ALL** keys.
- **Make it a miserable time for the thief this year & keep it that way.**



Most callers to your home will be genuine, however there are some who may not be. If you are in any doubt simply check your caller out with **QUICK CHECK on Freephone 0800 013 22 90.**

#### Easy Steps with QUICK CHECK

- Before you answer the door, make sure your back door is locked.
- If you have a door chain remember to use it before you open the door.
- Ask the caller for their identification and check it carefully.
- Ask them to wait outside and close the door - genuine callers will not mind.
- Ring **Freephone 0800 013 22 90**, your call will be answered personally and promptly by a trained operator. They will check with the company on your behalf, that the person at your door is genuine. If they are not or they think there is something suspicious, they will contact the police immediately.
- Do not let anyone into your home until you are satisfied as to who they are. **QUICK CHECK is a FREE telephone service, which is available 24 hours a day all year round to residents throughout Northern Ireland.**

In an emergency dial 999.

## Freephone 0800 013 22 90

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