



COCKFOSTERS WATCH

*Neighbourhood Watch in Cockfosters
Working with the Police*

Our Top Ten Tips for Security and Crime Prevention this Winter

Winter darkness gives thieves and burglars the perfect cover for their criminal activities, especially burglary and car crime. Take extra measures to keep your homes and vehicles secure.

1. A **well-lit** house gives the impression that someone is at home and helps deter opportunistic burglars, so:
 - Leave **lights on** if you are out in the evening;
 - Use **timer switches** to turn lights (and other electrical appliances such as radios) on when you are away from home. For remote control use a system such as V-Tac Smart Light and App to switch lights on and off, and to dim them.
2. **Lock** your doors and windows every time you leave the house; remember to double-lock any UPVC doors (lift handle and turn the key).
3. Make sure **side and garden gates** are locked to prevent access to the rear of your property.
4. Don't leave **valuables** (and presents at Christmas) in clear view through ground floor windows.
5. Don't leave **keys** (including car keys and fobs) on view in hallways and downstairs rooms. Hide them away.
6. If you don't have it already, install good outside **security lighting**; and consider **early warning systems**, such as **Ring, Nest or CCTV cameras**, to alert you to intruders on your property.
7. If you have a **burglar alarm** make sure you set it when you go out and before you go to bed; if you don't have an alarm system, consider installing one.
8. **Mark** your valuables with your postcode and house number; register your property for free with www.immobilise.com or sign up with **SmartWater** (www.smartwater.com).
9. Don't leave **tools** outside the house where they could be used to break into your house; make sure that ladders are secured; check that garden sheds are securely locked.
10. Thefts from, and of, **cars** are common in Cockfosters, so:
 - Make sure your car is locked when you leave it;
 - Don't leave any valuables in the car, not even loose change or sunglasses;
 - Use a **steering wheel lock** each time you leave your car, especially if it has keyless entry; install an **immobiliser** – the 'Ghost' system is highly recommended;
 - Keep keyless entry fobs (including spares) in a **Faraday bag** to stop their signals being picked up by car thieves.

HOW TO CONTACT THE POLICE

Phone 999 in an **emergency** where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.

Phone 101 for **non-emergencies** where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents; or report crimes, issues and incidents **online** at www.met.police.uk/ro/report/

Cockfosters Safer Neighbourhood Team: email cockfosters.snt@met.police.uk or phone 020 8721 2688