



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team

DARKER NIGHTS

Leaving your home unlocked, all in darkness and with valuables on view could mean that you end up giving burglars a gift. **Don't make it easy for them.** Burglars watch for houses with no signs of life. Leave a light on or better still put your lights on a timer and leave a radio on if you go out during the hours of darkness. Think about the security of your home. Lock up doors, windows and gates. Remember to lock your garden shed and store tools and ladders securely inside: it stops burglars using your tools to break into your house.

Motion detecting lighting, trellises at the top of fences, gravel pathways and prickly plants all make a silent and unnoticed approach much harder.

We are now well into the run up to Christmas. It is the time of year when we are all thinking of what to get loved ones for gifts, and also a time sadly when opportunist thieves are on the lookout for expensive items that have been left in vehicles. Please make sure you lock any purchases out of sight, preferably in the boot of your vehicle, and when you get home make sure you remove all items and take them inside to remove the risk of your vehicle being broken into. Don't make life easy for the minority of people who will think nothing of breaking into other people's property in order to make some fast, simple money.

Use timer switches at home to give the impression of someone being in now that the nights are darker sooner. Try not to leave presents wrapped and visible from windows. The less incentive there is, the lower the risk you have of a break in to your property. Also, if you are thinking of making expensive electric purchases, consider marking them with a security pen. We have these available at the Police station if you haven't got one.

Winter Vehicle Maintenance - Check your car

Antifreeze – check coolant level regularly and, if required, top-up with a mixture of the correct type of antifreeze. Your garage should check concentration to ensure adequate cold temperature protection.

Battery – the most common cause of winter breakdowns. A battery more than five years old may struggle in the cold - get it checked and replaced if necessary to avoid the inconvenience of an unplanned failure.

Fuel – keep at least a quarter of a tank in case of unexpected delay.

Lights – check and clean all lights regularly to make sure you can see and be seen clearly. Carry spare bulbs.

Tyres – should have at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring. Consider winter tyres for improved safety. Check pressures at least every fortnight.

Windscreen – reduce dazzle from the low sun by keeping the screen clean inside and out. Now is a good time to renew worn wiper blades.

Screen wash – use a 50% mix of a good quality screen wash to reduce the chance of freezing in frosty weather.

Locks and door seals – stop doors freezing shut with a thin coat of polish or Vaseline on rubber door seals. A squirt of water dispersant (WD-40) in locks will help stop them freezing.

Finally, from all of the officers and staff at Hadleigh Police Station we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous New Year!

Mandy
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