



## Post Christmas Advice – Protect Those Gifts and Personal Treats

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Over Christmas you may be lucky enough to receive some rather nice gifts.

What do you do with the packaging? Leave it by the roadside for the recycling collection? What better advert to the thief of where to find some new things to steal. Where possible fold the boxes inside out, or tear the box up, or package it in something else, or take it to the recycling centre yourself.

How many of us have thought about recording the serial numbers or property marking it. Be it a cycle, electrical goods, garden equipment or mobile phone it may have a serial number. You can record your serial numbers free or charge at <https://www.immobilise.com/index.php> and there are a number of property marking products available like indelible pens, SelectaDNA, SmartWater, CRE mark by CRE products to name but a few.

With jewellery and antiques don't forget to take photographs of it. Some of these property-marking products may also be suitable and you can now upload images to Immobilise too.

Mobile phone and personal music devices: Don't forget to make a note of the IME number of a mobile phone, to find it key in \*#06#, with this if it's stolen you can block it. Many TV's, mobile phones, computers and other electronics come pre-loaded with security and/or tracking software, make sure that it is activated.

If you are storing valuable college work or other on that nice new laptop don't forget to back up your work elsewhere just in case you lose the laptop.

You can download an "App" on mobile phones to find your phone and more importantly wipe that data stored on it, check your "App store" or mobile phone provider.

When texting or talking on phones, or listening to music remain "in touch" with your surroundings, a number of road accidents, thefts and assaults occur when we fail to note what's going on around us, don't forget to pass this advice on to children.

If you would like further crime prevention advice "Do it Online": <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/> or contact your local Crime Prevention Advisor by using the Police Non-Emergency Telephone Number of 101.