



## Tips for Greater Security at Christmas

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It's that time of year when people carry a little more cash around with them, houses are stocked with new, unopened electronic devices, perhaps some new jewellery for presents. Decorations and figures that are not cheap to buy adorn our front gardens. It is time to check your home and personal security and be extra vigilant.

Going away? Is your house going to be empty? Don't forget before you rush out to ensure you have locked up correctly, gates, doors, and windows. Create that illusion of occupancy: lights and radio on timers in rooms you would normally occupy, if you are going to away during the day time please no half drawn or closed curtains – most of our burglaries occur during the day time and it's more obvious you are away with closed curtains during the day.

Your new presents – make sure you record serial number or identifying numbers, frame numbers for cycles. You can record them free of charge on the [www.immobolise.com](http://www.immobolise.com) database. If mobile phones have a security and/or tracking program don't forget to activate it, especially for those students that with returning to rented accommodation after the break (after jewellery the most stolen items are small media and mobile phones). Property marking with your post code and house number is a great deterrent to theft, reduces the value to the thief and makes it easier to return found items to you, lots of methods out there but visible is best. Lastly don't advertise your new goods to thieves when you put your recycling out, turn the boxes inside out or tear them up and put them in a bag or plain box so the detail is not visible to passers-by.