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you never know!**

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Newsletter

April 2010

Dear Reader

*Really want to keep your personal and expensive belongings safe??
Then read on and make thirteen lucky for you by following
our tips to keep your possessions firmly in your possession!*

13 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS SAFE!



1. **Don't leave items on show ANYWHERE** - Not on show in the car, not on an exposed windowsill, not in a room you THINK is secure. If it's visible to others, it's a temptation for thieves.
2. **Mark your belongings** - Computers, iPods and expensive electrical equipment is best off marked with your postcode, or similar personal identifier. Do it with a marker, or with an invisible UV pen.
3. **Make an inventory** - Keep a list of the items you have. If you've got the time, take photos of everything too.
4. **Log your mobile phone's IMEI number** - An extra layer of protection for mobile phones is to note your IMEI number so the phone can be switched off when thieves try to use it. You can find your IMEI number by typing ***#06#** on your phone.
5. **Don't just think of thieves, think of backup protection too** - If your hard drive crashes on your computer or laptop, how would you cope? What about your digital photos and music files? Make backups of your electronic files so you don't have to start literally from scratch again.
6. **Password protect computers, laptops, USB sticks, etc** - If you don't secure them with password details, they could fall into the wrong hands and your personal data, passwords, and important documents could be compromised.
7. **Insure your belongings** - Don't chance it. Without insurance, you're left with absolutely nothing.
8. **Lock doors, even if you're only going away for a few moments** - People don't always see the point in locking up unless they're going out for a longer-term purpose, but it only takes a few minutes for valuable items to be stolen. If you're leaving your home or car, keep it secure!
9. **Don't carry (and don't show off) large amounts of money** - You're an easy target if someone spots you wielding loads of cash. Be more discreet and nobody around you will think about it, or carelessly mention it to anyone else...
10. **Report crimes immediately** - Don't wait to report a crime. The longer you leave it, the worse things can become. For instance, if your mobile phone is stolen, thieves can start making expensive calls from the phone. The later you leave things, the more time thieves get to call. All calls made before you report a phone stolen will still result in you being charged for the calls.
11. **Secure your items when you go away** - Christmas, Easter, and summer holidays away from home are fabulous times for criminals to linger. If you're planning a lengthy time away, make sure your valuables are stored as securely as possible. Just locking your door will not provide enough of a deterrent for a criminal who wants your goods!





- 12. **Don't leave bikes and outdoor equipment outdoors!** - Your best protection from thieves is to bring your outdoor equipment indoors, if possible. Out of sight is a much better deterrent than a chain.
- 13. **Never admit anyone to an apartment building unless you know them or are expecting them**
- If you need a key or passcode to get into your building, to keep the building and apartments safe, don't let anyone in just because they happen to be behind you.

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