

Crime Stoppers

Lock, Stop, Chain, Check

Anyone can become a victim of distraction burglary but elderly and vulnerable residents are most at risk. By following some simple crime-reduction steps you can protect against bogus callers. If someone calls at your door claiming to represent a company, organisation or group, ask to see their identity card. It is also worth confirming their identity, calling Yellow Pages rather than the phone number given on their identity card.



example. Ask a family member, neighbour or friend to record the voice.

Neighbourhood Watch
Bogus callers will often be deterred by Neighbourhood Watch signs. If you have an elderly or vulnerable neighbour or family member you could get them to join the Nominate a Neighbour scheme. The person is given an A4 card

to hold up at the window or front door when an unknown caller visits. This card directs them to a trusted neighbour who can check the person's identity for them. For information telephone the West Oxfordshire Crime Reduction Adviser Bill Butcher on: 01993 861638. He can also offer advice on installing door viewers, chains and personal alarms. And finally, remember to lock, stop, chain and check: **LOCK** - both front and back doors, even when at home. **STOP** - if you're not expecting anyone look through a window or spy hole first. **CHAIN** - if you decide to open the door, put your chain on first and keep on while you're talking. **CHECK** - double check their identity. If in doubt, keep them out!

Call Thames Valley Police

Make a note of the Thames Valley Police 24-hour general number: **0845 8 505 505**. If you require the police to attend, please try to note down the description of your bogus caller, their vehicle and which way they went. Call utility companies and ask to join their free **doorstep password scheme**. Anyone claiming to be from a local company who calls at your home must say this password before you let them in. If they can't, keep the door shut and call the utility company straight away.

Contact your local crime prevention and reduction adviser about having a '**me mo minder**' unit fitted in your home. This is an easy-to-use and -install electronic device that contains a pre-recorded message of choice which is activated by a Passive Infrared (PIR) sensor when approached by the occupier. Message prompts could be 'remember to put the chain on before you open the door', for

You can contact me, your local Police Community Support Officer Kirstyn Tyrer, on **0845 8 505 505** and leave a message for me, quoting my shoulder number **e9958**. I will make contact with you when I'm next on shift.

To report a non-urgent crime ring: 0845 8 505 505

For EMERGENCY calls ring: 999
PCSO Kirstyn Tyrer