

Stamp Out Doorstep Crime

Stay Out Stranger



Keep the door shut if you do not recognise or are not expecting a caller

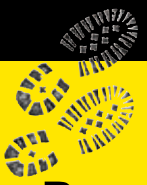


SOS
Stay Out Stranger



Building safer communities together

DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY



Bogus Callers

Most people that call at your home will be genuine. But sometimes, people turn up unannounced, with the intention of distracting you and tricking their way into your home to steal money or valuables. They are known as 'distraction burglars', 'bogus callers' or 'cold callers' and will try numerous ways to distract you to get into your home.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary are urging all residents to follow the advice given in this booklet to avoid becoming a victim of this crime.

Always be cautious when someone you don't know calls at your door - bogus callers often pretend to be someone they are not. They frequently claim to be from the water board, the council, the police, and health organisations or from gas or electricity companies. These people can be VERY convincing and persuasive and will use any excuse to distract you. Common tricks include children asking for a drink of water or looking for a lost pet or ball, in fact bogus callers may use any story to take advantage of your good nature and trick you into letting them into your home.

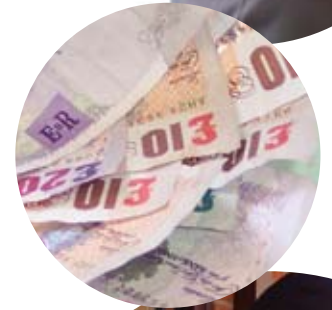
It is important that you check who is at your door by using a spy-hole or window and to ensure that you do NOT open the door to anyone that you don't know or are not expecting.

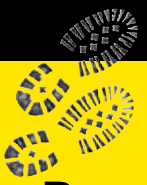
Bogus callers will often use 'props', these can include

identity cards, wearing a smart suit or wearing overalls that have a company logo on them. It is very easy for bogus callers to reproduce fake identity cards, it is therefore very important that you only open the door to either people you know or to someone that has made an appointment to see you via phone or letter. An official visitor will always arrange an appointment with you before. If you are not expecting anyone and don't recognise them do NOT open the door. If there is a stranger at your door – stop, think and remember – **SOS – Stay Out Stranger!**

It is important that you do not keep large amounts of money at home – it is much safer in a bank, building society or post office. Purses and wallets are best kept hidden away from windows and doors. Always keep details of credit cards and important documents in case you lose them and never keep details of pin numbers with credit cards.

Stop - think and remember - SOS - Stay Out Stranger!





Bogus Callers

You're safe and secure if they're kept outside your door!

Help us stamp out doorstep crime - **stop - think and remember - SOS - Stay Out Stranger!**

Always:

Keep your door shut and locked and use a spy-hole or window to check who is outside

Do NOT open the door if you don't recognise or are not expecting a caller

Avoid keeping large amounts of cash at home

Ask yourself:

Am I expecting a visit from a friend, neighbour or relative today?

Has someone made an appointment by telephone or letter to see me today?

If the answer to either of these questions is no then do not open the door and think **SOS - Stay Out Stranger!**

Rogue Traders

Rogue traders may knock on your door and pretend to be legitimate builders or gardeners. These callers will try to convince you into having work carried out that you do not need doing and may also charge you extortionate amounts of money for the work once it is done.

You should NEVER agree to have work carried out by someone who is just passing, or believe them that the work needs to be done at all. If you have agreed for work to be carried out do not let them pressure you into paying for the work before it is complete and do not let them take you to the bank or building society to take out money to pay them.

The only way to make sure that rogue traders do not try to swindle you is to make sure that you do not open the door to them - remember - **SOS - Stay Out Stranger!**

If you think you need work to be carried out at home, make sure that you get quotes from at least three companies and ask friends and neighbours to recommend a reputable company to you.



Bogus Callers - Distraction Burglars - Cold Callers

However we describe them they are simply people who will try to trick you into letting them into your home so that they can steal from you.

These people sometimes work in pairs or in teams - this is because they need one person to distract you whilst others search the house for money or valuables. These teams of bogus callers can include men, women and children. Do not let people confuse you – bogus callers will often say that it is an emergency and that they need to enter your home in a hurry.

If you think that a bogus caller may have called at your door, you must report it to the police immediately by calling 999. It would help the police if you can remember as much as you can about the person / people who called at your door and also information on any cars or vans that they may have used. The more details you remember, and the earlier that you tell the police, the quicker we will be able to investigate the crime.



Devon, Cornwall & The Isles Of Scilly Are Safe Places

Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are some of the safest places in England to live in, and crimes of this type are fairly rare, however – we want you to remember the simple message **Stay Out Stranger** to make sure that you stay safe.



Contacting The Police

Enquiries other than emergencies 08452 777444

To report a crime, for information and advice.

Why don't you programme this into your mobile phone in case you need it?

Some numbers can be dialled direct. Please refer to your local phone directory.

Emergency 999

If life is threatened, if people are injured, if offenders are nearby, if immediate action is required.

Minicom 01392 452935

Textphone for use by the hard of hearing and speech impaired.

**For more information on crime reduction visit:
www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereduction**



Contacting The Police

To contact your local Neighbourhood Beat Team visit www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Call anonymously to give information about crime.

Keyholder Scheme 0901 470 0440

Allows you to register a nominated keyholder for police to contact should any situation bring your home or business property to the notice of the police - 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Further information available on the Force website or from police stations or your neighbourhood officers.