General Safety Advice

Personal Safety
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid travelling alone, where possible.
- Cultivate a ‘buddy’ system.
- Walk in well-lit streets.
- Avoid dark, isolated areas.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be home.
- Plan your trip home, arrange a lift or book a taxi in advance.
- Consume alcohol in moderation.

Get ‘Streetwise’
- Avoid public displays of wealth.
- Keep purse / wallet hidden.
- Keep cash to the minimum.
- Be alert to pickpockets.
- On public transport sit close to driver / door.
- Be alert at ATM machines.
- Look for signs of tampering.
- Cover your PIN entry.
- Be alert to scams, the ‘helpful friend’.
- Do not attempt to remove any skimming device.
- Carry a fully charged mobile phone.
- Be wary when using mobile phones.
- Dial *#06# and record your IMEI no.
- Do not get involved in other people’s disputes.
- Do not respond to taunts, snide remarks.
- Avoid eye contact with aggressive or ‘drunk’ people.

Vehicle Security
- Be alert.
- Keep your doors locked.
- Keep your distance.
- Do not get ‘boxed’ in.
- Remember, take your property.
- Do not open windows to unknowns.

Parking
- Avoid parking in isolated places.
- At night-time, park in well-lit locations.
- Always lock the car, after activating the alarm, manually check the car is locked.
- Remember, take your property.

Property
- Property should not be left unattended in cars or other vehicles.
- Don’t leave property on view.
- Lock property in the boot.
- Do not leave cash, personal documents, credit cards, utility bills, laptops, phones, sat navs, wallets, bags or luggage behind in cars.

Safer Shopping
- Take extra care when using a cash point or chip and pin.
- Don’t let anyone see your pin number, never write down your pin number.
- If you carry a handbag, keep your purse at the bottom.
- Never keep your wallet in your back pocket.
- Keep your handbag zipped at all times – crowded shopping areas are very popular with pickpockets.
- Don’t leave your handbag in the shopping trolley while you shop.
- Stay alert when using your mobile phone. It’s very easy for someone to snatch it out of your hand.
- Thieves can target car parks; avoid leaving shopping bags in vehicles for prolonged periods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT your local GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER or visit the Garda website at www.garda.ie

Issued by the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit, Garda H.Q., Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.
SECURE HOMES

FACTS ON HOME BURGLARIES
1. In winter, burglaries increase by 25%.
2. Over 40% of burglaries in winter occur between 5pm and 11pm.
3. In 20% of burglaries, entry is through an unsecured door or window.
4. Jewellery and cash are the most common articles stolen during burglaries.
5. There were over 200 cases where car keys were “fished” through the letterbox in the past year.

PREVENT BURGLARIES
1. Secure all doors and windows.
2. Light up your home, use timer switches when out.
3. Store keys safely and away from windows & letterboxes.
4. Record details of valuables and don’t keep large cash amounts at home.
5. Use your alarm, even when at home.

GOING AWAY
- Make your home look occupied.
- Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries.
- Trusted neighbours may be able to help you by collecting your post, opening and closing curtains and they could park their car on your driveway.
- Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence from home.
- Don’t let people know your home will be vacant by discussing your holiday on social media; do it when you’re back!
- Leave important documents and valuable items with other family members or a bank. Alternatively lock them in a safe.
- Do not put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination. A work address will suffice if you want to label your luggage.
- If you normally leave valuable bicycles or similar items in your shed, consider putting them in the house.
- Make sure that you lock all outside doors and windows and turn on your alarm.

Alcohol
Alcohol (and/ or drugs) will impair your ability to drive and effect your judgement, reactions, vision and ability to make decisions.

“NEVER EVER DRINK AND DRIVE”

The advice contained in this information sheet is not intended to be exhaustive or absolute. Nothing contained in this publication should be interpreted as mandatory, obligatory or designed to conflict with any statutory regulations.

Useful Numbers:
- Garda Confidential Number: 1800 666 111
- Crime Victims Helpline: 116 006
- Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: 1800 77 88 88
- Women's Aid: 1800 341 900
- Amen: 046 9023 718
- Child line: 116 000
- Samaritans: 116 123
- ITAS: 01 6661 0562