

Useful contacts



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

To report suspicious activity call the police non-emergency number **101**

If a crime is happening or someone refuses to leave your home always call **999**



To give information anonymously about crime please contact Crimestoppers, an independent charity.

**REMEMBER:
IF IN DOUBT KEEP
THEM OUT!**

Call: **101**
Textphone: **18001 101**
Visit: www.cambs.police.uk
Follow: **PboroCops**
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Not all callers to your front door are genuine

Be aware of rogue traders and distraction burglars

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Help us catch rogue traders and distraction burglars operating in your area

Do the following phrases sound familiar?

“The moss on your roof needs removing otherwise it will cause damage....”

“I’m from the ‘water board’, there’s a leak down the road and so I need to check your water supply”

“We’re the police, we’ve caught a burglar who we think has stolen your cash and we need to check your money is safe.”

Although many people who call at your home will be genuine there are incidents when a rogue trader pretends that there is a fault with your property such as your roof or in your garden, or a distraction burglar who pretends they are from a well recognised organisation.

Rogue traders

Typically an individual or group of people call at your door and offer to do work on your home or garden that will be either unnecessary or vastly over-priced such as repairing tiles on your roof or removing a ‘dangerous’ tree from your front garden.

Distraction burglary

This is where criminals call at your house posing as an official employee or with an excuse that seems genuine or urgent. They will make up a story to get into your home, for example asking for your help with something so that they can steal your money and valuables.

Be aware

Although it is usually an individual or group of men 25-40 years old, women or children can also be involved, all of whom will be smartly or casually dressed.

Offences are more likely to take place on weekdays, either late morning (11am – 1pm) or late evening (8pm – 9pm).

They may wear gloves, or cover their hands with clothing.

By taking simple preventative measures you can further reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

DO

Check the identity of the caller

Always ask for an ID card before allowing them into your home and call the company they claim to be from. Only use telephone numbers listed in your local directory or provided independently by your service provider as any telephone numbers provided by the caller may be bogus.

Ask the caller to leave information with you about their service so you can study it at your leisure.

Sign up to your local Nominated Neighbour or Neighbourhood Watch Scheme if your area has one. Check with your local crime reduction officer to find out more details.

Call the police on 999 if you ask any visitors to leave and they refuse to.

Call the police straight away on 101 if you suspect a bogus caller has visited you, even if you didn’t speak to them or let them in.

Sign up to your utility service provider’s password scheme if they have one. This means that any legitimate employee must know and use the agreed password before they enter your home.

Have relevant passwords or hotline numbers handy so you can quickly and easily check the identity of callers.

DON’T

Believe all callers are genuine - they are not.

Go to a bank or cash point with a trader; legitimate traders would never do this.

Believe special ‘today only’ type deals or scare stories. Don’t allow anyone to pressure you into agreeing to sign anything on the spot or to have work carried out. **Discuss with a relative or friend any work** suggested or you feel needs carrying out on your home so that they can help you find a reputable trader.

Your rights

If you agree to pay over £42 for any services or goods that are sold to you during a visit to your home or your place of work, then:

You have 14 days to cancel the agreement. Any money paid should then be returned to you.

The caller must give you a written cancellation form setting out your rights when you agree the contract. If the caller does not provide you with this information he is committing a criminal offence and the agreement isn’t valid.