

PROTECTING YOUR VALUABLES AT HOME



Advice from Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit



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Marking your property makes it less attractive to thieves. Traceable property may be more difficult for an offender to sell on, particularly items that have been visibly marked. Marking your property also increases the chances of you being reunited if it is stolen and later recovered.

This guide gives practical tips about marking, recording and identifying your property. If you want to find out about marking antiques, read our guide at www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/library/advice_and_support

Take photographs of your valuables

Taking photographs of your valuables can increase the chances of property being returned to you if it is stolen and recovered.

Try to take photographs of:

- Any distinguishing marks and hallmarks.
- Size and dimensions.
- The front and back of the object.
- Make, model, and serial number(s).

Write down where you have marked the item, how it is marked, and with what. For example, 'item marked with postcode behind the battery with a UV marker pen'.

You can record this information in the table on page four.



Write a description of your valuables

It's much easier to write a description while looking at an object rather than trying to remember the object if it has been stolen.

- Type of object: television, mobile phone, bike etc.
- Materials: wood, ceramic, glass.
- Measurements: size, weight.
- Markings: hallmarks, damage.
- Maker: brand or manufacturer.
- Date, where purchased and value.

It is also useful to include any extra information that could help to identify the object, for example, the colour or shape.

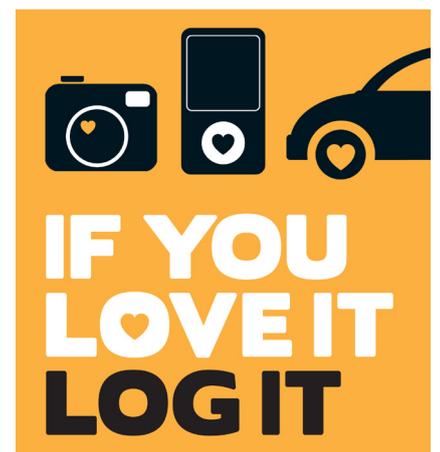
Once you have taken photographs and written descriptions of your valuables make sure you keep them in a secure place.

Register with Immobilise

Register your valuables at property database www.immobilise.com for free.

Registering your details makes it more likely that you will be reunited with your items if stolen and later recovered by the police.

You can also help to deter thieves once you have registered your property on **Immobilise** by displaying window stickers at your home. This warns thieves that your property is traceable. The stickers are available on the **Immobilise** website.



Property marking

Property marking falls into two categories; visible and invisible. Visible is the most effective because it makes it difficult for an offender to sell on.

When using any type of property marking it is important to display signs to show that you have marked your property to deter thieves.

Visible

SelectaMARK is a permanent, indelible, stencil kit. The indelible compound works on plastic, paint or powder coated surfaces. It slightly melts the surface of the object and when cured, leaves a permanent, visible, raised mark similar to Braille.

Another visible option to consider is a product called **Cremark**, which consists of a permanent marker pen and curing lacquer. Although **Cremark** is not an endorsed product, visible marking of property is strongly supported.

Invisible

Invisible property marking solutions include **SelectaDNA, SmartWater** or **Crimestoppers Property Protector**. These products use a forensically coded solution which is applied to items.

They fluoresce under ultraviolet light and each batch of solution has its own unique forensic code. When property is recovered, if the solution is found to be on the item, it can be sent away to be tested to find the owner of the property. It is important to ensure that, if you use this type of asset marking, you register your kit, otherwise if property is stolen and recovered, owners cannot be traced.

An alternative method of invisible asset marking is to use **ultra violet marker or postcode pens**. These are available in most supermarkets and stationary stores at low cost. These pens can be used to write your name and postcode on valuable assets without detracting from the value and appearance.

Don't get caught out buying stolen goods

Be suspicious of items where the asking price does not reflect the market value – remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Make sure you check out the details of the seller and record these for future reference. If in doubt, don't purchase without further research.

Visit the CheckMEND website at www.checkmend.com to see if the item you are thinking of purchasing has been registered lost or stolen. If you have reason to believe an item may be stolen or if you see your stolen property for sale, don't confront the dealer, please contact us on **101**. In case of an emergency, for example, where a crime is in progress dial **999**.

Contact the Pre Crime Unit on **101** extension **800 3011** or email pre.crime@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk for more information on these products and where to get them from.

Nottinghamshire Alert

Nottinghamshire Alert is a system which allows Nottinghamshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch in Nottinghamshire and other organisations that work for the public to send community safety messages to you quickly and efficiently.

If you are interested in getting updates on major incidents, advice on crime prevention and community safety and alerts about criminals operating in your area, make sure you are registered with the system.

You can report antisocial behaviour in your area and receive responses from police about the incident you have reported and find out how to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or set up your own in your street by registering.

What do I get?

- A totally free service — you can control your message settings and choose to receive alerts via email, text message to your mobile phone or recorded voicemail. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- Information about crime trends, incidents and appeals from authorised police officers and police staff.
- Report suspicious and antisocial behaviour (not crime), receive updates and responses about them.
- Start, manage or request to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area.
- Configure how, when and which messages you'd like to receive.

If you want to know more about Nottinghamshire Alert, contact Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit.

Tel: 101, extension 800 3011

Email: nottinghamshirealert@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To register for Nottinghamshire Alert, visit www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the registration form, call **101** or visit your local police station to request one.

For more advice on crime prevention contact

Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit
Arrow Centre
Hucknall
Nottinghamshire
NG15 8AY

Tel: **101**

Tell us what priorities you want your local police to focus on with our online survey

www.neighbourhoodprioritysurvey.co.uk

If you have information about criminals operating in your area, call Crimestoppers anonymously on

0800 555 111