



Working together for a safer London

Staying safe

Although the chances of becoming a victim of crime in Richmond upon Thames are low, you can reduce these risks further by taking a few simple steps. These include:

At home:

- Replacing door locks when you move into a new home.
- Always check a caller's identity - remember if in doubt, keep them out.
- Do not accept sellers at the door. If you need a repair doing contact a reputable company.
- Consider asking a friend to come round when you have a visit arranged.
- Never leave your doors unlocked even if you are only in the garden - it only takes a second.
- Never leave windows open in unoccupied rooms.
- Always draw your curtains after dark.
- If you receive a suspicious phone call do not disclose personal information and report it to the police.
- Leave lights on or fit a timer switch when you are out after dark.
- If the premises are going to be unoccupied for any length of time ask a friend or neighbour to clear post away from your letter box. If you have a driveway can anyone park in your space?

At the shops:

- When using debit/credit cards don't let anyone see your PIN number.
- If you feel vulnerable when out, go to the nearest shop and ask for assistance.

When out and about:

- Avoid walking alone after dark, walk with friends or take a taxi. Always walk assertively, with your head up.
- When going out, let people know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- If you are cycling, keep your bag/valuables on your person. When leaving your cycle secure it to a solid object with two different styles of lock.
- Stick to well-lit streets, especially at night.
- Use main routes where other people are about.
- Wearing a personal stereo/MP3 player may prevent you from hearing approaching danger.

Public transport:

- Always wait in a well-lit place.
- Sit near the guard or driver if possible.
- Take note of emergency alarms.
- Ask someone to meet you at your final destination.

Traveling in taxis:

- Don't accept lifts from strangers, or hitch hike.
- Book taxis in advance from reputable firms you know are reliable and always check when the cab arrives that it is the one you booked. Remember, only official black cabs can lawfully pickup passengers without pre-booking.
- Ask the driver to wait until you are inside your house.
- Share a taxi with a friend, it is safer and cheaper.

In the car:

- Keep your car in good working order and consider the benefits of being a member of a recovery service.
- Keep your doors locked at all times.
- Remove all belongings from your vehicle when you leave it, especially laptops and satellite navigation systems even if they are not on show. Wipe any sucker marks from the screen, thieves may see these and break into the vehicle to search for equipment.
- Plan your route in advance and tell someone.
- Don't stop if a stranger tries to flag you down.
- Always park in open or well-lit areas and car parks displaying the Park Mark accreditation.

Richmond | Community
upon | Safety
Thames | Partnership

For further crime prevention advice you can contact your local police Safer Neighbourhood Team; details can be found at www.met.police.uk and follow the link to Richmond upon Thames for your ward team. The crime prevention officer can be contacted via 0300 123 1212.

You can also seek advice from the Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership Team on 020 8891 7777 or through www.richmond.gov.uk and follow the link to policing & public safety.