

## You better watch out, you better lock up

Although most people will be staying at home this Christmas, homeowners are still being reminded to remain vigilant as thieves are likely to be out in force over the festive season.

As lockdown kept households indoors this year, Lloyds Bank Home Insurance had a 41% decrease in burglary claims compared to 2019 to date, and a 51% decrease between November 2019 and 2020.

Although fewer homes will be empty as Christmas parties and large family gatherings are cancelled, they are still likely to be full of Christmas presents.

Households may even have managed to save a bit more cash and splashed out on more expensive items, providing the perfect temptation for prying burglars.

**Tim Downes, Senior Claims Manager, Lloyds Bank Home Insurance, said:** "It's an understatement to say that this will be a Christmas like no other, with parties and large social gatherings firmly on hold.

"Given how difficult this year has been for many, a burglary or break-in over the holiday season could make things even more devastating during what should be a joyful time.

"Taking a few simple steps, such as not displaying gifts in your window and locking doors at night, can help avoid Christmas break-ins providing homeowners peace of mind that their home and possessions will be protected."

### Top tips from Lloyds Bank Home Insurance to protect your home this Christmas:

1. **Be careful with deliveries:** packages and post left on your doorstep are a sure sign that no-one is home. Make use of 'click and collect' services or have your shopping delivered to a trusted neighbour if you're not going to be home.
2. **Dispose of present packaging carefully:** empty boxes outside your home are a clue to burglars of new purchases indoors.
3. **Don't leave presents under the tree if it's visible from a window:** this could attract burglars into the home.
4. **Install timers on your lights:** this will help create the impression that someone is at home when you're out.
5. **Be careful with social media:** posting a picture of a new gift is always fun, but could also attract unwanted attention.
6. **Make sure that all doors and windows are locked before going to sleep:** don't forget about any windows that have wires running out of them for Christmas decorations.
7. **Keep your insurer's details saved on your phone:** in case the worst happens and you need to make a claim.

ENDS

### Editors' Notes:

\*Research based on in-house claims data.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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