

Advice from Devon and Cornwall Police

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Bogus callers Who can you trust?

None of them...

You can't pick out a burglar just by looking at them. If you don't know them or are unsure, DON'T LET THEM IN.

Most people who knock or ring your doorbell are genuine but some are not... The person knocking at your door could be a thief or conman trying to trick their way into your home to steal your money or valuables. YOU CAN STOP THEM.

Many bogus callers generally pretend to be from the water board, gas or electric companies or the local council. Be aware - check their identity.

Whether you are home or away - keep all doors LOCKED

STOP - Are you expecting anyone? Is the back door locked?

CHAIN - Put door chain on before opening the door

CHECK - Ask for caller to pass ID through door gap or letterbox then check it by phone

Top tips for safety at your door:

Keep front door and back doors locked even when you are at home.

Stop and think whether anyone is expected - most genuine visitors will call before to arrange their visit.

Look through a spy hole or window to see the caller before going to the door.

Put the door chain or door bar on first before opening the door, and keep it on whilst talking to the caller. When the door is shut and locked, the bar or chain should be left off so you can get out in an emergency.

Check their identity card carefully even if the caller has a pre-arranged appointment (close the door whilst you are doing this).

Look up the phone number of who the caller represents in the phone directory; ring to verify the caller's identity. Do not use any phone numbers on the identity card, as this may be fake.

General Safety Advice

- **Do not keep large amounts of money in the house**
- **Keep purses or wallets away from windows**
- **Never keep the details of your 'pin' with your credit or debit card.**