

DOORSTEP CRIME - HOW TO KEEP SAFE AT HOME

Kent County Council, Trading Standards

KCC Trading Standards - who are we?

- We check up on people who sell things, like shop owners or people who work for you, like builders.
- We check that they don't break the law.

What is 'Doorstep Crime'?

- 'Doorstep Criminals' are often people who will lie and cheat to get your money.
- They may knock on your front door and try to sell you something or offer to do some work on your house or garden for you.



Who needs to be careful?

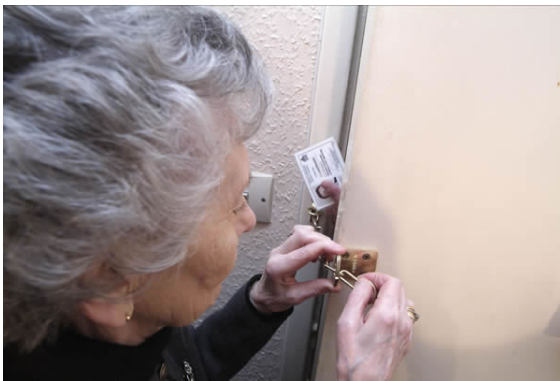
- Everyone - but doorstep criminals often find out where old people live, or where there are people with Special Needs who might easily be tricked.

How can you keep safe at home?

- Your home should be a safe place. Most callers to your home will be people you know, but you need to be careful when people you don't know call at your door.

What should you do when people you don't know call at your door?

- Keep your front and back doors locked.
- Look to see who is at your front door, through the window or spy-hole.
- Put a door chain on before opening the front door. If you don't have one, ask the caller to pass their ID card through the letterbox.



An ID or identity card is a card with the caller's picture, name and the name of the company where the caller works.

- Keep the chain on the door. Check the caller's identity. Check that they are who they say they are.
- The callers might say they have come to check your electricity, water or gas meters. The callers might say they are from the council. Phone the company the caller works for. Find the number of the company in the phone book. Do not use the number on the ID card.

- If you are not sure about the caller, ask them to make an appointment to come back when a friend or family member can be with you.
- Do not sign any forms for services or give money to people you don't know when they turn up on your doorstep.
- Dial 999 and ask for the police if you feel afraid or threatened by people you don't know.
- If you are not sure, KEEP THEM OUT!

