



This list was compiled by those involved with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby council areas. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.



## OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR **IDENTITY**

1. Consider using a third party payment system for internet transactions, such as PayPal, in order to avoid entering credit card details. Consider having another credit card with a low credit limit to be used specifically for internet purchases, or for overseas.
2. Use a phantom date of birth when you subscribe or register online. It may be a compulsory field, however, it is NOT legally required. For example use 01/01/ followed by your year of birth - to keep your age demographic intact, but your identity safe.
3. Include strong password security on all electronic devices – Use (in order of strength) complicated passwords, or a pattern, or a PIN. Alternatively, consider using facial or fingerprint recognition (both strong). Note that the easiest (read laziest) method may not be the most secure - your phone can contain a HUGE amount of sensitive data about you, your home, your emails. Consider using ‘Two Factor Authentication’ on accounts. For all touch screen devices – regularly clean the screen to remove tell-tale marks.
4. Never share your PIN. Beware sharing the 3-4 digit Card Verification Value (CVV), usually on the back of a credit card. Immediately sign new cards. Check internet sites are secure for payment by looking on the address bar for the the padlock symbol, green background colour, or the ‘s’ in the ‘https’ prefix. Untick the box: ‘Keep these payment details on file’.
5. Encrypt and password protect all sensitive files. Consider encrypting your device. Use encrypted messaging systems (such as Signal). Consider using Virtual Private Networks (VPN). Forget wi-fi networks once used. Browse using ‘incognito’ mode, in order to stop the logging of browser history.
6. Be aware of wi-fi security, especially items such as baby monitors. Ensure you set a new secure password on all items, especially wi-fi devices, internet router, computer, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, telephone answering-machine, smart TV – look around your home – also known as the ‘Internet of Things’ (IoT).
7. Install Firewall software, anti-virus and anti-malware systems on all internet devices, including your mobile phone. Keep up-to-date – consider setting updates to ‘Auto’. Ensure you install the latest software updates and patches to your devices, as these close any vulnerabilities to threats. Install/use only one anti-virus at a time. Download Apps from only the official stores.
8. Shred any unneeded document (statements, accounts) that has your personal details (eg signature, birth date), as well as credit cards and loyalty cards. Your local Neighbourhood Watch group may have a shredder to borrow – ask your CPO. For generic letters, simply tear out your name/address, before recycling. Keep receipts & always check statements.

📧 [NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org.au) 📧 [WatchOut.org.au](mailto:WatchOut.org.au) @ [NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com)

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**ENGLISH**

## OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY contd.

9. When leaving a device in a vehicle, don't just remove it from view – turn it off, to avoid a criminal's software identifying your hidden device.
10. Sign up for the alerts from the government: [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au) [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au) <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/subscribe>.
11. Keep your mailbox secure. Put a lock on your mailbox – consider a 'Tubular Pin Tumbler Lock'. Remove mail regularly. Don't allow your mailbox to overflow. Know when important documents are expected to arrive, and investigate if they are late.
12. Never give out personal details (eg date of birth, maiden name, signature) to unknown people, whether by phone, for surveys, at the door, by email or on the internet. Remove all personal documents from your vehicle.
13. Review your privacy and security settings on social media, to ensure you are safe.
14. When finished with a device, remember to delete all personal information using erase software. Encrypt the device, then reset to factory settings. (The reset will delete the encryption code.) If it is no longer needed, use a magnet to destroy the digital memory. Better still, use a hammer, drill or scissors.
15. NEVER allow your browser to remember passwords. If in doubt how, ask for help with settings - it's important.
16. Know the best crime prevention information on the internet. Neighbourhood Watch has created [www.WatchOut.org.au](http://www.WatchOut.org.au) to point you in the right direction.
17. Be aware that photos can contain 'geotag' information that identifies the location where they were taken. Consider changing the settings to remove this property. Consider whether to avoid 'check-ins' on Social media.
18. NEVER let your credit card out of your sight in a café or restaurant – go with it! Consider using Radio-frequency identification (RFID) protection (sleeves, wallets, bags etc) for credit cards and passports. If possible, collect new credit cards from the bank branch.
19. Do not open suspicious texts, pop-up windows or emails/attachments – delete them. If unsure, verify the contact through an independent source such as a phone book or online search. Do not use contact details provided in the message sent to you.
20. If you think your identity has been compromised – act quickly. Contact the Police (**PAL**) and **iDcare** below. Tell your bank or financial institution, eg the ATO. To protect others, report all suspected frauds/scams – use <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam>. For Cybercrime, report to the Australian Cyber Security Centre ReportCyber (previously ACORN) [cyber.gov.au/report](http://cyber.gov.au/report). Check your credit report annually (FREE if not in a hurry) and as soon as you are concerned: [www.mycreditfile.com.au](http://www.mycreditfile.com.au).

<b>FOR EMERGENCIES</b> (Including anyone on your property)	<b>000</b>
<b>TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS</b> (Crime Stoppers)	<b>1 800 333 000</b>
<b>TO REPORT NON-EMERG CRIME</b> (Police Assistance Line)	<b>131 444</b>
<b>IF YOU'RE NOT SURE</b> (Hornsby Police Station)	<b>9476 9799</b>
<b>iDcare</b> <a href="http://www.idcare.org">www.idcare.org</a>	
<b>FREE</b> support <a href="mailto:contact@idcare.org">contact@idcare.org</a>	<b>1300 432 273</b>