

# PRESS RELEASE



20/12/2018



## Don't leave your 'home alone': stop the Grinch from stealing Christmas cheer

Households are being encouraged to stay safe over the festive period, after a 13% increase in burglary claims between summer and winter months last year, according to Halifax Home Insurance data\*.

A total of 6,472 claims were received over the year, with burglaries based on force accounting for 5,188 claims, versus 1,284 claims for unforced burglary.

**Tim Downes, Senior Claims Manager, Halifax Home Insurance, said:** "With the festive season in full swing and Christmas round the corner, empty homes full of gifts provide the perfect opportunity for burglars to scoop up some last-minute steals.

"Taking a few simple steps to protect your property can help homeowners stay safer over Christmas, and focus on enjoying the season's celebrations."

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

1. **Don't leave presents under the tree** – particularly if visible from windows or doors. This could attract burglars to come into your home.
2. **Dispose of present packaging carefully.** Empty boxes outside your home are a sign of new purchases.
3. **Before wrapping presents jot down model and serial numbers.** Keep your receipts as proof of purchase in case you need to make a claim.
4. **Think twice about where your deliveries are made.** Have them delivered to a safe place or make use of collection points.
5. **Think about installing timers on your lights.** This will help create the impression that someone is at home.
6. **Make sure that all doors and windows are locked before leaving home.** Don't forget about any windows that have wires running out of them for Christmas decorations.
7. **Think twice before uploading pictures of yourself on social media when enjoying festive activities.** Consider how much information you want to share about where you are.
8. **Cancel all deliveries if you're going away.** Think about asking someone to check in on your home while on holiday.

- ENDS -

#### Editors' Notes:

\* Based on Halifax Home Insurance in-house claims data between January-December 2017. Summer months are June-August inclusive. Winter months are October-December inclusive.

Halifax Home Insurance, Home Insurance Ultimate and Home Solutions are all underwritten by Lloyds Bank General Insurance Limited. Halifax Home Solutions and Home Insurance Ultimate have a 5 star Defaqto rating.

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