



Vecinos Cooperando y Colaborando de España Neighbourhood Watch Association in Spain



DOORSTEP AND PRESSURE SALESMEN

Distraction burglary is any crime where a falsehood, trick or distraction is used to gain access to a property to commit burglary. Victims of distraction burglary can suffer terribly both emotionally and physically. That is why it is very important to take precautions when people call at your home.

Crime prevention advice

- If you're not sure who is at your door, don't open it. Check the identity of the caller by calling the company they are purporting to be from i.e. gas, electricity, water, police. Use the telephone numbers listed in your local directory or provided independently by your service provider – Do not use any telephone numbers provided by the caller – they may be bogus.
- Gas, Water and Electricity representatives will make appointments in writing before coming to your house. Only in extreme emergencies will they just knock at the door unannounced.
- Telephone a neighbour or friend nearby to come along and check out the caller before you open the door to them.
- Don't keep large quantities of cash at home; put it in the bank where it is safe.
- Keep doors locked and windows secure at all times.
- Ensure that if you do let somebody in to your home, that you close the door behind them – distraction burglars often work in teams, where one will distract you whilst others sneak in through the insecure door.
- If somebody asks for your help – needs to make a telephone call, lost a ball in your garden, needs a drink or pen and paper for example, refer them to a younger neighbour or assist them through a closed door. Alternatively, call a friend or neighbour to come and assist.
- Not sure? Don't open the door.