



## Vecinos Cooperando y Colaborando de España Neighbourhood Watch Association in Spain



### **CODED FOR KEEPS – UV PROPERTY MARKING INITIATIVE**

Do you own things of sentimental value which would be impossible to replace? Or things which could be replaced but at a cost? Your possessions may mean a lot to you but to a thief they are just another way of making cash. Of course the best thing to do is to protect your home against the thief. But if someone did break in and steal things, could you describe them fully and accurately to the police? It is not as easy as it sounds when all you have to rely on is memory. Every year, property worth hundreds of thousands of pounds is recovered and not returned to its rightful owners, simply because it can't be properly identified.

Property marking deters thieves - they find identifiable property dangerous to handle and difficult to dispose of. This is why NHW launched the UV Property Marking Initiative. Each NHW Coordinator was issued with UV Pens and UV Lamps to enable all NHW members to mark their property. To enable property to be returned it should be marked ideally with the person's NIE number. The recommendation is that each article is marked twice with your NIE Number. Once near the model serial plate, but not on it, and second, underneath or in the battery compartment (if there is one).

It is also recommended that households keep a list of marked property including details such as:- item, serial number, description, size & colour, purchase price, value, insurance details and where it has been marked. It is a good idea to photograph your valuables and keep the photos in a safe place along with the receipts for the items. Also consider photographing expensive pieces of jewellery that it may not be possible to mark. Remember that if you are going away ensure that a friend has a copy of your list of valuables which they can pass to the Police if necessary.

If your marked property is subsequently stolen you must file a Denuncia with local police and mention in the denuncia that the property is marked. This makes it much more likely that when the police retrieve stolen items they can be returned to their rightful owners.