



# Watch out for pickpockets

Keep your possessions safe



PARTNERSHIP

**Thieves, often called pickpockets, use a range of tactics to distract you in order to steal from your bag, rucksack and pockets.**

Even in a city as busy and crowded as London, incidents of pickpocketing are still quite low. Knowing how and where criminals who commit these crimes operate will help you avoid falling victim to them.

Thieves frequently operate:

- ! At tube stations
- ! At cash machines
- ! In car parks
- ! Around bus stations
- ! In overcrowded areas, especially at rush hour.



## Here are the most common tactics used by thieves:



### The snatch

The victim is using their mobile phone and is unaware of their surroundings. The thief takes advantage and snatches the phone before making off.



### The stall

When boarding a bus the person in front of the victim deliberately stalls to cause an 'artificial queue'. This allows the person behind the victim to take advantage and to steal from them.



### **The concealed hand**

The pickpocket uses an item, such as a newspaper, coat or bag to conceal their actions.



### **The distraction**

Working as a team, one pickpocket approaches the victim and asks them a question. The second pickpocket uses this opportunity to steal from the distracted victim.



### **The easy dip**

A bag hangs on the back of a pram. Whilst the parent is distracted by the child, the pickpocket seizes the opportunity to take the bag or items inside such as a purse, wallet or mobile phone.



### **The bank follow off**

The pickpocket has watched the victim. They target them as they know they have cash on them.



**Be aware - thieves operate in crowds and busy places. There are ways you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim.**

- ! Always be aware of your surroundings, especially in busy places**
- ! Never keep your wallet or mobile phone in your back pockets**
- ! Keep your bag fully zipped and over your shoulder diagonally**
- ! Press \*#06# for your IMEI number and register your phone with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)**
- ! Download the 'Find my iPhone' app.**

For more information on personal safety contact the Kensington and Chelsea's Community Safety Team

Email [commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk)

For non-emergencies call the police on **101**

**Remember for all police emergencies call 999**