

## Stolen Goods Advice

# DON'T BUY CRIME

*When you buy stolen goods, you participate in a cycle of crime that leaves thousands of people physically injured or emotionally scarred*

### **If something is a little too cheap**

When that bargain you're thinking of buying seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you're considering buying goods that 'fell off the back of a truck', ask yourself why is it so cheap?" While you may be getting a few bucks off a camera or DVD player, someone's home or business may have been invaded or trashed. The owners may even have been terrorised or hurt. Stop and think about the consequences of buying it.

### **It is an offence to knowingly buy stolen goods**

If you buy stolen goods, the law considers you as responsible for the crime as the thief. If the goods have been covertly marked you could be prosecuted for your involvement.

### **How can you tell if goods may be stolen?**

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I know the person selling it?
- Is the product in its packaging?
- Are the purchase circumstances suspicious?
- Are the goods coming from the boot of a stranger's car?
- Is the sale taking place in a public place?
- Does the seller have a receipt or proof of ownership?
- Are there any markings, serial numbers or engravings?

### **Don't make it easy for criminals**

Marked property can prevent theft and is easier for the police to track. It enables you to identify your goods.

Mark your property by:

- Engraving your driver's license number onto your property.
- Recording serial numbers.
- Photographing your property.
- Using micro dots. These dots are laser-etched with owner details and can be identified by equipment operated by many pawn brokers and police.
- Place a sticker on a prominent window to show that your property has been marked.

### **The consequences**

The consequences of buying into crime go well beyond the damage it does to your life. Many break-ins are done by drug addicts. The money you pay for your stolen goods often pays for their addiction. When you buy stolen goods, you actively participate in the crime cycle. You are buying other peoples misery.

## **What to do if you're offered stolen goods**

A burglar's trade only flourishes while people are willing to buy stolen goods. If you suspect the property on offer is stolen, call the police on 131 444. They will advise you on the best way to handle the situation. If you have any knowledge or information about the persons dealing in stolen property, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 and if you wish, your call can be treated as anonymous. If possible, try and get as much information as you can before calling Crime Stoppers, such as a car registration, a description of the person or any other information that may assist police in catching the offender.

## ***DON'T BUY INTO OTHER PEOPLES MISERY***

***Before you buy stolen goods consider the other side  
Preventing crime is everybody's business***

<http://communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au>

[www.goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au](http://www.goodbyegraffiti.wa.gov.au)

[www.nhw.wa.gov.au](http://www.nhw.wa.gov.au)

### **IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS**

Police assistance 131 444

Emergency 000

Emergency- mobile phone 112

Emergency- hearing impaired 106

Crimestoppers 1800 333 000

Goodbye Graffiti Hotline 1800 442 255

Crime Prevention & Community Liaison Unit

Level 3, 2 Adelaide Tce

East Perth WA 6004

08 9222 1300

<http://communitysafety.police.wa.gov.au>