

# Give with care

Over 90% of the goods sold in charity shops are donated by people like you, and charities rely on your continuing support and generosity.

Household collections are a popular way for charities to collect donations, but beware – some of these collections are bogus.



## Don't stop giving to charities and those in need

Donating your clothing and other goods to genuine charities helps to raise vital funds. But please make sure that your donation goes to a legitimate charity or organisation collecting on their behalf. Taking care when making your donation means that you can be sure that your help goes to those who really need it – and that charities don't lose out.



## Be aware – treat with caution

Unfortunately, anonymous 'bogus' collectors may try to exploit your generosity for their own gain. They may also steal donations left for collection for genuine charities. These bogus collections cost charities at least £2 million a year.



## Be careful – don't be misled

Don't be taken in. Read the small print. Know where your donation is going. Check contact details, as they might be false. Are they clear? Is the charity specified? As a rule of thumb, if there is no legitimate telephone number, the people who put the leaflet through your door don't want you to call – for a reason.



## Check before you give

If you have any doubts about the leaflets asking for donations, check them out.

- Ring the Charity Commission helpline (**0845 300 0218**) or visit their online register of charities (**[www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)**) to see whether the name or number given belongs to a legitimate registered charity.
- Contact your local authority to check whether the collector has been licensed.
- Call Consumer Direct for further advice (**08454 04 05 06**) or visit the 'Watch out!' section of their website (**[www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)**).