

Crime prevention advice for home security



Home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. A lot of burglaries are spur of the moment, as a burglar may see an open window or other easy point of entry and take their chance.

Tips to consider:

- If you are installing new doors and windows get ones that are certified to British Standard BS 7950 (windows) or PAS 24-1 (doors).
- Window locks especially on older windows will help stop people getting in
- Securely lock all doors and windows before leaving the house. It's easy to forget when you're in hurry, but it's the simplest way for a burglar to enter your home.
- Never leave keys anywhere near the front door, including your letterbox; burglars know where to look.
- A home that looks empty is far more likely to be targeted by a burglar, so it's worth making sure your home looks occupied
- Use automatic timer-switches to turn on a light and perhaps a radio when it goes dark, even if you are just out for a couple of hours
- If you're away for longer periods of time, cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries.
- Why not ask a neighbour or relative for help could they clear the post away from the door mat and open and close the curtains.
- Visibly and permanently marking your belongings helps you and the police identify them if they are stolen. It can also make it difficult for the thief to dispose of the property (*see property marking factsheet*)
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates, 2 metre minimum fencing or walls. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult.
- Security lighting can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable and observed. It is suggested that you use dusk to dawn lighting.
- Visible burglar alarms are a deterrent there are many to choose from (*see factsheet on alarms*)
- Fit padlocks and hardware to shed and garage doors.
- Make sure that passers-by can see the front of your home. Remove and secure items that may be used to break in or climb up such as ladders and garden tools
- Beware of bogus callers; use your spy hole and a door chain until you have seen their ID and are satisfied you want to let them in
- Never discuss your security requirements or existing arrangements with a doorstep caller or salesperson
- Work with your neighbours to keep an eye on each other's security, Neighbourhood Watch groups are good for this

