



BURGLARY

Remember: Most burglaries are opportunistic.

- Always close and lock doors and windows when you go out - even if just for a short time - and when you go to bed at night. Don't forget doors into garages or conservatories.
- Make sure your locks and security measures comply with your insurance requirements. More information can be found at www.securedbydesign.com and www.locksmiths.co.uk.
- Join or start a Neighbourhood or Home Watch scheme! Membership of a scheme is a proven deterrent to burglars.
- Keep keys, including shed and car keys, in a place where they're not visible to anyone looking in. Don't leave keys in the door and never hide a spare key outside.
- Keep valuables hidden and not visible from windows.
- Take photos of your valuable items for insurance purposes and keep them with your policy.
- Window locks and visible burglar alarms can act as a deterrent to criminals.
- Never leave packaging from new goods visible with your general rubbish. Criminals may see it and target your property.
- Draw curtains in the evening and leave your lights on a timer switch if you're going out. Make sure one light is on upstairs.
- Never give your keys to anyone you do not know well. Change the locks when you move house so that you know exactly who has keys.
- Never keep large amounts of cash in the house.
- Consider keeping expensive jewellery, house deeds and other important items in a home safe anchored to the brickwork.

If you are replacing your lock cylinder, we recommend upgrading from the standard Euro cylinder lock to Avocet Hardware's ABS Snap Secure lock. These locks have met both the Sold Secure SS312 Diamond Standard and 3* TS007 approval, and provide the best protection on the market against lock snapping. You can find out more at www.homesecurityandsafety.co.uk / www.abs-secure.co.uk / 01484 725 601

Register valuable items free of charge with www.immobilise.com, a property register that helps police identify your property and catch criminals.

If you need to have your locks repaired or replaced, are wanting to upgrade your security or simply want a security survey then you can find a vetted, inspected and qualified locksmith near you via the Master Locksmiths Association: www.locksmiths.co.uk / 0800 783 1498. Their website also has useful security advice including a visual guide to home security.

Consider using commercial property recovery systems. Secured by Design has accredited a number of products which use forensic trace, permanent marks or secure internet:

Selectamark - www.selectamark.co.uk

RedWeb - www.redwebsecurity.com

SmartWater - www.smartwater.com

Retainagroup - www.retainagroup.com

Keyfetch - www.keyfetch.com

Look at www.securedbydesign.com for more security tips and recommended products. You can also speak to your local Neighbourhood & Home Watch Association as they may have products available directly from them.

Garden security

Garden security is very important as the garden is an access point into your home. Make sure to secure your garden with lockable gates and walls or substantial fencing. Thorny plants around the perimeter and trellis on top of fences make it harder for an intruder to access your garden. Also, keep your ladder and garden tools locked away, as they can be used by burglars to access your home.

When you go away

- Make sure your alarm, if you have one, is set.
- Put lights on a timer switch to make your house look occupied. Make sure you include at least one upstairs light.
- You can also get a 'fake TV' which can be put on a timer and which gives out a flickering light to mimic a TV. This is an excellent deterrent if placed out of sight lines.
- Ask a neighbour to push post through your letterbox and take in any deliveries for you. Cancel milk, newspapers and other deliveries if you can.
- Ask a neighbour to park a car on your drive so that passers-by assume someone is at home.

- If you have a close friend or relative nearby with a key, ask them to draw your curtains in the evening and back in the morning. Don't leave the curtains drawn during the day.
- Don't display your home address on the outside of your luggage.

Don't publish your absence on the internet. Status updates, comments and photos on social media can all give away the fact that you are out of your home for an extended period.