

Home & Vehicle Security



Residential burglary

There are many simple steps that you can take to reduce the likelihood of being burgled.

Lock your doors and windows

Fitting extra locks and deadlocks on windows and side gates. Remember to double lock your UVPC doors.

Make your home look occupied

Signs of unoccupied properties like uncollected mail, milk and unlit houses can attract attention. Invest in a timer to put lights or a radio on and off, or ask a neighbour to see to milk, mail and lights.

Put keys away

If they are left in sight near letterboxes and windows, burglars are skilled at getting to them. **Never leave a spare key hidden outside.**

Install an alarm

Burglar alarms are one of the most effective ways of protecting your home.

Don't leave things on display

Keep gadgets, jewellery and cash away from windows where possible.

Lock valuables away

Secure ladders and tools in a locked garage or shed.

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch

You can pick up valuable crime prevention tips from your local community.

Make sure they can be seen

Trim your hedges and install outside lights so burglars can't operate without being seen by others.

Stay vigilant

If you live in a flat with a buzzer-operated door, don't let people in that you don't know. If you're suspicious of someone who you think may be a burglar, call 999.

Take precautions

Make sure that you take pictures of, or mark your property in case you are burgled.

Register your property free by visiting **www.immobilise.com**. Once registered, you will have a better chance of getting your property back if it's lost or stolen.

Don't let strangers into your home

If you're alone and not expecting a visit, don't let anyone in. People with a genuine reason for calling will understand and come back by appointment.

Remember

Most residential burglaries are opportunistic, committed when a burglar sees an open door or an easy opportunity to break into a property. **A burglar can be in and out of a house in five minutes.**

Car crime

Car security starts at home

Never leave your keys where they can be seen from the front door and make sure you have sufficient home security.

Lock your doors

Make sure you lock your car doors and fully close your windows and sunroof. You could also invest in a steering wheel lock.

Don't leave items on display

Sat Navs, sunglasses, coats and even spare change can tempt opportunists thieves. Remember to wipe away Sat Nav marks from your windscreen.

Park safely

Use your garage if you can. If not, try to park in a busy, well-lit open space.

Invest in security devices

Engine immobilisers prevent the vehicle from starting, while alarms can deter thieves from breaking into your vehicle.

Mark your equipment

Mark belongings such as Sat Navs with your house number and postcode. You can also have your windows etched with your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

Wing mirrors

If possible, fold in your wing mirrors while the car is parked to prevent damage.

Secure your shed

Shed windows

Cover your shed's windows to hide the contents. You should also consider fitting them with an internal grille fixed to steel plates to reinforce them.

Mark your tools

Write your house number and postcode on your garden tools and possessions with a bold marker pen. This will make them less attractive to thieves.

Keep ladders safe

If you have a ladder out, put it on its side and lock it to a secure fixture with a padlock or heavy duty chain.

Use high-quality locks

For your shed door, the fittings should be bolted through the door and reinforced at the back with a steel plate.

Padlocks used externally should be made of hardened steel and no less than 6cm wide. A closed shackle design is best as thieves cannot prise them open.

Security screws

If you have exterior door hinges, replace existing screws with security screws. These cannot be unscrewed once they are in.

Insurance

Check your house insurance policy covers items in your garage, sheds or outbuildings.

Contact us

In an emergency always call 999.

For non-emergencies please call 101.

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

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