

Home Security Factsheet

We all want to feel safe and secure in our own homes and want to avoid an unwelcome visit from a burglar at all costs. Home security covers a number of different areas but this factsheet outlines a few simple steps that might help to protect your home and deter would be thieves.

Burglary Outside the House

- Use low level dusk to dawn lighting around the outside of your home.
- Consider using prickly plants as boundaries; criminals do not like climbing through prickly plants and hedges.
- Crunchy gravel driveways are a good deterrent as thieves do not like to be heard.
- Don't forget to protect your shed - install metal grills over windows, reinforce hinges and invest in a good lock.
- Consider securing valuable items inside your shed or garage using security cables or chains with robust padlocks.
- At the front of your property keep boundary fences and hedges low to allow as much natural surveillance as possible from neighbours, passing pedestrians and traffic.
- The rear garden should have a secure boundary.
- Secure garden furniture and ornaments with bolts or to a concrete base using metal pins and make sure they are security marked.
- Expensive plants can be secured in the ground using wire and pegs around the root ball.



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Burglary Inside the House

- Most burglars enter property through insecure doors and windows so fit good bolts and locks to all doors and windows and **ALWAYS USE THEM.**
- Use a timer device to make your house look like there is someone home.
- Don't leave valuables on display where they can easily be seen through a window, especially car keys.
- Photograph items of jewellery, antiques and other items that may be difficult to describe.
- Always back up home computer records on disc and store them safely in case the computer is stolen.
- Mark valuable items with your postcode using an ultra violet marker or use a forensic marking kit. Property marked will be less attractive to the thief and easier to identify if stolen.
- Consider purchasing a safe for storing valuables.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Shred all receipts and utility bills to avoid criminals using your identity.

