

Crime Prevention Advice

The chance that you or a family member will be a victim of crime is very low. However, the best way to cut the risk of becoming a victim is to take sensible precautions.

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.

Basic Tips:



Door - When you go out, always lock the door and close the windows - even if you are just going out for a short term

Door Lock - If you have deadlocks, use them. They make it harder for a thief to get out again. But don't leave the key near the door, or in an obvious place. Don't leave spare keys outside, or in a garage or shed, and put car keys or garage keys out of sight in the house.

Windows - Window locks, especially on older windows, will help stop people getting in (and remember, a burglar is less likely to break in if they have to smash a window)

Light in one window - Use timers for lights and radios if you need to be away from home overnight. They will create the impression that someone is in.

Burglar alarm and outside lights - Visible burglar alarms, good lighting, and carefully directed and limited security lighting can act as deterrents. But make sure that lights don't disturb your neighbours, and that alarms turn off after 20 minutes.

Fence / trellis - Fences at the back of the house make this area more secure but walls and solid fencing may let a thief break in without being seen. A good compromise is chain-link fencing, or trellises with prickly shrubs.

Spy hole on door - Fitting a 'spy hole' allows you to see who is at the door. Having a chain means you can open the door a little way to talk to them.

TV in the window – Marking electrical goods with your postcode or an identifying number, using a UV marker pen, can help identify stolen property. The police now carry UV lights which will highlight any UV markings instantly.

Make sure that any improvements you make don't stop you from getting out of your house as quickly as possible if there is a fire.

Bogus Callers

- ◆ Most people who come to your door will be genuine callers but it's best to make sure.
- ◆ Fitting a door chain or spy hole will help you check who the caller is. If you were not expecting someone to call, a genuine caller will not mind waiting outside while you contact their company. Most companies have a password scheme.
- ◆ If you let someone into your home, even if it is someone you know, and you become uncomfortable, make excuses and leave. Go to a neighbour's house, or ask a friend to come back with you.

Interrupting Burglars

If you come home and find a broken window or lights on, and you think there may be a burglar inside, you may think it best not to go into the house

Go to a neighbour's house and call the police, or ring the doorbell - someone who should be in the house will come to the door, whereas intruders are likely to run away.