



Summer Burglary Advice

Homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. Taking just a few steps can make a big difference in keeping your home safe from burglary.

- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even when you're just out in the garden
- In Summer, don't leave ground floor windows open overnight even if its hot. Lock them before going to bed
- Hide all keys, including car keys, out of sight and away from the letterbox (remember a device could be used to hook keys through the letterbox)
- Install a visual burglar alarm (as part of a suite of prevention measures - a burglar alarm on its own will not prevent entry to your home)
- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied
- Make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition and lock any side gates to prevent access to the rear of your home.
- Secure bikes at home by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage
- Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home
- Improve natural surveillance at the front of your property i.e. trim high hedges

Doors and windows

Make sure your doors are strong and secure. Glass panels on doors are particularly vulnerable. If you have one on your door you could replace it with laminated glass, which is stronger, or a protective film. You can fit DIY key locks to windows for little cost and they are a very effective security measure.

Going away on holiday - Make your home look like someone is living in it:

- Use automatic timer-switches to turn your lights and radios on when it goes dark
- Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries
- Use the Royal Mail's 'keepsafe' service - they keep your mail for up to 2 months while you're away. Mail sitting on your doorstep is a sign that you are away
- Trusted neighbours may be able to help you by collecting your post, opening and closing curtains and they could park their car on your driveway
- Avoid discussing holiday plans on public social networking sites - burglars can use any information you post on there to their advantage



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