



# Protecting your home from burglars is often easier and cheaper than you may think.

There are various simple but effective ways to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Some of the crime prevention tips included in this booklet can even reduce the cost of your home insurance.

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## Your property exterior and boundary

Generally burglars are less likely to target homes which are in full view of neighbours, appear well maintained and are in good repair. There are simple steps you can take to give this appearance.

### Exterior

Making your property look well cared for makes it less likely to be targeted. So make sure that:

- Buildings, fences and other structures are kept clean and in good repair
- Maintenance is carried out promptly
- Rubbish and other debris is cleaned away and removed where possible
- Ladders and bins are put away so they can't be used as climbing aids
- Key areas are illuminated such as the front, side and rear of your home (see the 'Lighting' section for more detail)

**Consider a driveway and/or garden alarm.** They are motion-activated by people or vehicles entering the driveway/garden or approaching your doors, sending an alert to the internal receiver. The alarms are wireless, very affordable and easy to install.

**Never leave a spare key outside** in a convenient hiding place, including inside a fake stone, under the doormat or in a flower pot. Instead leave a key with a friend or neighbour. If hidden keys are found by an intruder and used to burgle your home your home insurance may be invalidated.

### Boundaries

Gates and fences are the first signs of a secure home and act as a good deterrent to intruders.

- Keep your front and side gates secured as it sends a clear message that you want privacy to uninvited guests
- Your front boundary fences/walls/hedges should be no more than 1m (3' 3 1/2") high to allow passers-by and neighbours to see the front of your home and minimise hiding places for burglars
- Your rear boundary fences/walls/hedges should be no more than 2m (6' 6") high including any topping. Above this you will need planning permission
- Any new fences/walls above 1m (3' 3 1/2") which border or adjoin a public highway and is used by vehicles may need planning permission

## Fences

- All fences should be well maintained and any damage repaired promptly
- Adding a trellis top or specifically designed security topping such as Prikka strip to fencing acts as a climbing deterrent. You must only use products manufactured as a security topping as its primary purpose and ensure warning signage advises there is security topping installed as detailed in the Owners and Occupiers Liability Act
- For a perimeter fence by a public path or other vulnerable area consider planting defensive or prickly shrubbery on your side of the fencing (see below)

## Hedges, trees and shrubs

- All hedges, trees and shrubs should be kept well-trimmed.
- You could consider defensive planting in vulnerable areas of the garden to create a physical and psychological barrier. Suggested plants include:



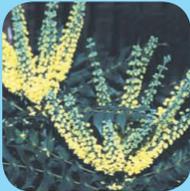
Berberis Stenophylla  
(Barberry)



Berberis Julianae  
(Barberry)



Ilex Aquifolium  
'Ferox Argentea'  
(Hedgehog Holly)



Mahonia Media  
'Winter Sun'



Pyracantha Orange Glow  
(Firethorn)



Chaenomeles X Superba  
'Crimson and Gold'  
(Japonica)

## Access points

All access points to other areas of your property, such as side gates, need to be of the same security standard and height as the fence they are attached to. This can be achieved by:

- Fitting anti-lift hinges
- Minimising the gap between the bottom of gates and the ground to prevent anyone crawling underneath
- Securing gates with a quality close-shackle padlock so there is little room for bolt-croppers to be used. If using a standard padlock fit a steel shroud to make it more difficult to attack
- Attaching trellis topping so the gate is more difficult to climb (see 'Fences' for more detail)

## Doors and windows

Ensuring all doors and windows that provide access into your home, particularly those at ground level, are sufficiently secure is essential when considering your home's security. This includes the door, frame and locks.

### Doors

- When buying a new door look for a certified British Standard (BS) PAS 24:2012 (previously PAS 24:2007) 'door set'. It includes a complete assembled frame and door with enhanced security
- Doors not certified to PAS 24:2012 will need additional security enhancements. (see overleaf for details)
- Door hinges should be sturdy and secured with strong, long screws. For added security fit hinge bolts or security hinges which reinforce the door's hinge side against force if the door is opened outwards. The hinges should be fitted 100-150mm (4" - 6") below the top hinge and the same from the bottom
- If you have glazed panels it is recommended to replace ordinary or toughened glass panels with laminated glass of at least 6.4mm (1/4") thick
- If refurbishing a door check the frame is firmly fixed, sturdy and isn't rotten. If it is weak or rotten anywhere, replace it
- Wooden doors are particularly vulnerable, especially back doors. As a minimum fit a 5-lever mortice lock and a night latch or rim lock, both to BS 3621
- If your door has a thin ply wood panel at the bottom you are recommended

to replace it with hardwood or marine ply. Extra security such as a London or Birmingham bar can be installed, which are reinforcement bars designed to strengthen the frame against kick-in attacks

- If you have a UPVC or Composite door it should be fitted with either:
  - A multi-point lock to standard BS 3621, this means you do not need additional security devices, or
  - A Europrofile cylinder which meets standard TS 007. For additional protection use a security door handle
- Installing a door viewer in your front door allows you to see who is knocking at your door before choosing whether or not to answer. It should be positioned no higher than 1.5m (4' 11")
- A door chain or limiter enables you to speak to callers at your door whilst retaining a level of security
- Don't leave keys in the door, especially if there is glass which burglars could smash
- Never hang a spare key inside the letter box as this is often a place a thief will check. Also consider fitting a letter box cage to prevent thieves from putting their hand through
- If you live in a flat, it is worth installing a door telephone entry system. Make sure you only 'buzz' through and open the door to people you know



Europrofile cylinder lock

## **Conservatory and patio doors (one static and one sliding panel)**

Conservatory and patio doors need to be as secure as any other external doors. They should ideally have one of the following:

- The same multi-locking system as above
- Locks fitted no lower than a third of the way from the top or bottom
- Locks fixed to the side of the static frame and attached to the sliding frame to stop it from moving
- Long-throw bolts fixed to the top and bottom of the opening door

Whichever locking system you use you should not be able to lift your patio doors more than 6.4mm (1/4"). If it does, simply insert the appropriately sized wooden block into the channel above the opening door to prevent this.

If you have concerns regarding your existing locks seek the advice of your local locksmith who should be affiliated to the Master Locksmiths Association (see 'Useful organisations' for details).

## Windows

Windows are popular entry points for burglars, either by breaking them or just climbing through an open window. To minimise the risk there are some simple things you can do.

- Even if it is summer and you're in the back garden for a while, ideally close any accessible ground floor windows, alternatively use restrictors
- Always remove keys from window locks and keep them somewhere safe but easily accessible to you
- When buying new windows, install ones which are certified to BS PAS 24:2012 (previously BS 7950) meaning they are windows of enhanced security
- Protect your window pane from being smashed by fitting an accredited adhesive window film
- Window alarms and chimes are low cost but effective ways of protecting your property if you do not have a home alarm system. Some include a vibration alarm which triggers if someone forces the window open

## Window locks

Window locks are recommended for all windows but are considered essential for those on the ground floor or situated above, or near, a flat roof. Locks can be retro-fitted to most windows although always consult the manufacturer/supplier before attempting to fit any extra locks.

**There are two main types of locking systems:**

- **Multi-point locking devices** - normally three sets of bolts set into the window and located into locking points in the frame when the handle is turned. The bolts should be mushroom-headed so they can engage behind the locking point, enabling the window and frame to resist being forced apart
- **Deadlock shoot bolts** - these are fixed into the frame at both opening side corners. There is also a deadlock that secures the opening side of the window at the handle. The window can also be fitted with high-security friction hinges

There are some locks that can be fitted if there is no integral locking system within the framework, typically where the only means of security is a locking handle.

If you have UPVC double glazing, check with your supplier before fitting extra locks to ensure they won't invalidate any guarantees or warranties.

## Other available retro-fitted locks

There are various additional locks that can be fitted to enhance window security:

### UPVC windows



Sash jammer

### Single-glazed and UPVC windows



Metlock

### Single-glazed windows



Window bolt



Stay lock



Sash lock



Swing lock



Transom lock

## Intruder alarms and CCTV systems

If investing in an intruder alarm or CCTV system get at least three quotes for professional installation. Don't ever use cold-callers or telesales enquiries and always check the company's address, credentials and representative's identity. Make sure you always understand exactly what you are paying for and read the small print.

### Alarms

Alarm systems are proven to be very effective at deterring burglars and there are a variety of systems available.

## Hard-wired or wireless system

- Hard-wired can be more expensive but tend to be more reliable and are governed by BS4737 and BS EN 50131 standards, although do take longer to install. The higher the class the more safeguards are built in, so buy the highest class you can afford
- Wireless alarms are quick to install but remember the sensor batteries need to be changed from time to time

**Remote monitoring system** - linked to a central monitoring station, this will automatically call an agreed key holder and, if required, the police. If you choose a police response alarm then it must be NSI or SSAIB approved and maintained.

**Audible only system** - either DIY or professionally installed, an external alert sounds if the alarm is activated to attract attention to the property. There will be no response from an associated security company or the police but many have the ability to send a notification to a mobile phone or computer.

Whichever system you choose it is important to:

- ask the installer to explain how to use it and read the instructions carefully
- arrange for a responsible person to have a set of keys to your home and know how to operate the alarm in case of an emergency
- (for audible systems only) speak to your neighbours and ask them to report any activations caused by suspicious or criminal activity
- investigate the cause of any false alarms
- make sure any audible alarms don't operate for more than 20 minutes
- set the alarm system at night, even when the house is occupied. You can get alarms that monitor pre-defined areas or zones (e.g. downstairs, excluding the kitchen only). Pet tolerant sensors are available

The more isolated your home the more you will benefit from a monitoring system.

## CCTV systems

There are many CCTV systems on the market with differing inbuilt technology but in general are either wired or wireless systems. Some cameras are even able to use your network or internet portal to send images to your computer so you can access the footage over the internet remotely.

When considering any home CCTV system you should firstly identify what problems you want the CCTV to help with so you have an idea of what features you want your system to have.

There are four basic functions that CCTV can offer:

**Monitoring** - This allows you to see general activity in an area with a wide-angle view, any people will fill only about 5% of the screen. It may assist with direction and speed of travel but not for identification of offenders, and so needs to be used with other security measures. Most 'off the shelf' systems only offer this function.

**Detection** - Slightly better than 'monitoring'. You can determine the colour and type of clothing and identify vehicle colours and makes. People in view will fill about 10% of the screen. If you know what you are looking for you should be able to ascertain with a high degree of certainty if they are someone you have previously seen.

**Recognition** - Any people in view fill a minimum of 50% of the screen. This type of camera allows the viewer to identify with a high degree of certainty whether or not the individual shown is someone they have seen before.

**Identification** - The recommended option. Any people in view will be very close up, allowing you to see the chest, head and shoulders. The picture quality should be sharp enough to enable accurate identification of people in view.

By having a combination of the above functionality you can have a system that offers you a better chance of identifying any offenders.

### **Other considerations when purchasing a CCTV system:**

- **Lighting** - Will your CCTV system be operating overnight or when the darker evenings draw in? If so, make sure you advise the supplier who will consider if additional lighting may be required. All lighting must be located above the cameras so they do not cause any interference.
- **Infra-red lighting** - If additional lights are not practical, infra-red lighting is an alternative. Consult with your supplier and make it clear what areas you want the cameras to be able to cover.
- **Recorded images** - They must be time and date stamped and the system should include a DVD or CD burner. The replay software should allow specific or range date/time searches.

Make sure any system conforms to relevant codes of practice (visit [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)) and all components conform to BS EN 50132-7.

For further guidance on choosing the appropriate alarm and CCTV system for your home and approved suppliers visit or call the following organisations:

- **National Security Inspectorate (NSI)** - [www.nsi.org.uk/information-centre/information-for-home-owners/](http://www.nsi.org.uk/information-centre/information-for-home-owners/) 0191 296 32 42
- **Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB)** [www.ssaib.org/page/protecting-your-home/](http://www.ssaib.org/page/protecting-your-home/) 01628 637512

## Lighting (external and internal)

Burglaries often occur during the hours of darkness, particularly from autumn to spring and during the period before people have returned home from work.

### External lighting

By installing external lighting you can reduce the places where a burglar can move around the exterior of your property unseen. When installing external lighting you should consider lights that:

- Are passive infra-red (PIR) – a single or series of lights activated when someone, or something, comes into its field of vision for a short period of time, or
- Are high-efficiency, low-energy dusk to dawn lighting - these come on during the hours of darkness but are less obtrusive and cheaper to run than other types
- Cover the approach to your front, side, rear doors, garage and shed
- Are positioned no lower than 2.5m (8') to avoid tampering and are less likely to be activated by passing animals such as cats. PIR lights are also adjustable
- Are positioned to avoid light covering neighbouring premises or passing vehicles

All electrical work should be carried out by a qualified electrician.



### Internal lighting

Burglars prefer homes which appear to have no-one inside, so if it is going to be dark before you arrive home, plug your lamps and radios into timer switches so they automatically turn on while you're out.



## Sheds, garages and outbuildings

Sheds, garages and outbuildings are often targeted by burglars both due to the high value of the contents inside, such as garden mowers, bicycles and power tools, but also because they usually contain an arsenal of breaking-in implements.

You can protect your shed or garage by:

- Securing all doors with at least one heavy-duty hasp and closed-shackle padlock which conforms to BS EN12320 (Only if the frame is strong enough to support the lock)

- Using strong hinges on the door, secured with coach bolts or clutch-head screws. Ordinary fixings are easily removed
- Installing a garage defender (to Sold Secure gold standard), which bolts into the floor in front of the garage door stopping it from being opened
- Making sure any doors connecting the garage to the house are of the same security level as other external doors
- Fitting a grill or heavy wire mesh over the windows, even net curtains prevent the contents inside being seen
- Installing an alarm system which is either an extension from your home system or a stand-alone device. There are many suitable PIR sensor alarms available
- Installing shed bars or shed shackles



## Tools, equipment and bikes

In addition to making the structure secure it is important to secure all contents so they are more difficult to remove. Wherever possible, tools and equipment should be stored inside a secure building to avoid them being used to break into your home.

Equipment such as spades, power tools, ladders and bicycles should be:

- Secured to each other and a heavy object, preferably a ground anchor which meets 'Sold Secure' gold standard using a steel chain or rope or
- Locked in a steel box secured to the floor

If they are left outside, secure them with a steel chain through a ground anchor and lock ladders to a wall-mounted bracket.

High-value items and bicycles are particularly vulnerable to theft and should be permanently security-marked and any unique ID registered with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). You should register your power tools' make and serial number and your bike's frame number, make, model and colour.

**Bikes** should be secured with a good quality D-lock and a heavy duty chain (Sold Secure approved) when away from the home. Cheap locks won't deter thieves and are easily cut through in seconds. (see 'Useful organisations' for details).

## Inside the home

Not having your valuables visible and accessible from windows and doors is the easiest way to reduce temptation to burglars. For example, don't leave your laptop on the kitchen table so it is visible from the street or your car or house keys lying

on a hall table near the front door. Criminals often put objects through the letter box to steal keys.

It is also a good idea to maintain a list of key phone numbers so you can quickly contact the appropriate people if the need arises.

## Protecting your belongings

**IMMOBILISE**   
**PROPERTY CRIME**

Register now so that if the worst should happen, you can increase the chances of recovering your possessions by marking valuables and registering them with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) (see 'Useful organisations' for details).

Immobilise is a free online database where you can register your valuable items' unique marks or serial numbers, including mobile phones, bicycles, sat navs and laptops.

If the items are lost or stolen you can inform Immobilise which will inform the police and insurers. Police use Immobilise to help reduce crime and reunite recovered personal property to its rightful owners.

Make sure you regularly update your Immobilise records, including if you sell or dispose of the items or move home.

Record your phone's IMEI number and keep it safe (type **\*#06#** for your device's unique 15 digit number).

## Property marking

It is important to put an identifiable mark and take a note of unique serial numbers on any valuables as they help both you and the police identify them if they are unfortunately stolen. It also makes it difficult for a thief to dispose of the items and may provide vital evidence for a prosecution.

Items can be visibly and permanently marked in a variety of ways:

- Engraving or edging your postcode plus the number of your house or flat or the first two letters of its name
- Ultra-violet marker pen - mark with both your house number and postcode and make sure you reapply it every six months
- Specialist forensic product - SmartWater, SelectaDNA or Crimestoppers Property Protector can be purchased online. If you do not have access to a computer then give us a call and we will be happy to pass on the details
- If the item is a work of art or difficult to describe - take a photo of it and keep it, along with the item's details, safe with your insurance policy

## Tracking applications and software

Installing tracking onto your mobile, laptop or tablet shows the location of your device, so if it is lost or stolen it assists its return and can help prosecute offenders.

'Prey' is free software which can be downloaded from [www.preyproject.com](http://www.preyproject.com) and easily installed on a variety of devices. Once you have downloaded the software, it is a good idea to familiarise yourself with how it works before you need to use it.

You should also register your devices with the online database [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) (see 'Useful organisations' for details).

## Before you go out or away

Whenever you leave your house unoccupied, whether it is just for a few hours or a few weeks, the key is to make it look as if there is still someone inside.

### Any time you leave your home

- Lock all doors and windows and if you have a burglar alarm make sure it is set
- Just before you set off it's worth spending a couple of minutes checking that you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you
- If it is going to get dark before you arrive home, plug timer switches into your lamps and radios so they automatically turn on while you're out. The hours of darkness are often a popular time for burglars to strike

### Longer periods

- Don't close your curtains during the daytime as this shows the house is empty
- Cancel milk or newspaper deliveries
- Cut the lawn before you go and trim any plants burglars could hide behind
- Never discuss your travel plans on social networking sites
- If you leave keys with someone, don't label them with your address, surname, or even your house number in case they fall into the wrong hands. Friends or neighbours can help make it look like someone is still at home by:
  - collecting your mail or pushing it away from sight as a pile of post on the doormat is a clear sign you are away
  - mowing your lawn
  - sweeping up leaves

# Security checklist

By reviewing the security in and around your home it will help identify areas where additional burglary prevention may be required.

Current Condition		Advisory Notes
<b>Property boundary</b>		
<b>Front</b>		
Are front boundary fences and walls clean, in good condition and a maximum of 1m (3' 3 1/2") high?	<b>Y/N</b>	Low front boundaries give good visibility from surrounding houses and help to prevent burglars being able to hide.
Are front hedges, trees and shrubs well-trimmed and maximum 1m (3' 3 1/2") high?	<b>Y/N</b>	
<b>Rear</b>		
Are rear fences and walls a maximum of 2m (6' 6") high?	<b>Y/N</b>	High fences, hedges and shrubs at the back provide good security.
Are hedges, trees and shrubs well-trimmed?	<b>Y/N</b>	
Do you have defensive planting in vulnerable areas, such as sides that run alongside or back on to a green area or public footpath?	<b>Y/N</b>	Spiky plants provide a physical and psychological barrier to entry into your garden.
<b>Access points</b>		
Do you have locked side gates at all access points?	<b>Y/N</b>	Side entrances should be strong and lockable.

<p><b>Main entrances</b></p> <p><b>Front</b></p> <p>Is your door construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood</li> <li>• Solid core</li> <li>• UPVC</li> <li>• Composite</li> </ul> <p>Is your door frame in good condition?</p> <p>Do you have a door viewer?</p> <p>Do you have a chain or restrictor?</p> <p>Are the locks appropriate and in good repair?</p>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p><b>Doors and frames</b></p> <p>All doors/frames should be in good repair, fit for purpose and doors conform to BS PAS 24-1.</p> <p><b>Locks and security</b></p> <p>Wooden doors should have a 5-lever mortice lock and a night latch or rim lock, both tested to BS 3621.</p> <p>UPVC or composite doors should have a multi-point lock to standard BS 3621 or a Euro profile cylinder lock to TS 007 standards.</p>
<p><b>Rear</b></p> <p>Door construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood</li> <li>• Solid core</li> <li>• UPVC</li> <li>• Composite</li> </ul> <p>Is your door frame in good condition?</p> <p>Are the locks appropriate and in good repair?</p>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p>	
<p><b>Conservatory and patio doors</b></p> <p>Are the doors and locks in good repair and appropriate?</p> <p>Can the doors be lifted more than 6.4mm (1/4")?</p>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p>To eliminate any gap around your doors simply insert the appropriately sized wooden block into the channel above the opening door.</p>

<p><b>Windows</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are windows and frames in good repair?</li> <li>• Are locks fitted to all accessible windows?</li> <li>• Do ground floor or those near or above a flat roof open 9” or more?</li> <li>• Do you have any window alarms?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p>Frames should be securely fixed and new windows should conform to PAS 24:2012 formerly BS 7950.</p> <p>Locks can be retro-fitted to most windows but always check with your supplier first.</p> <p>Window restrictors should be fitted to ground floor windows or those near, or above, a flat roof.</p> <p>These can be very effective and some include a vibration alarm which triggers if the window is forced open.</p>
<p><b>External lighting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it cover the approach to the front, side or rear of the property?</li> <li>• Are they positioned at least 2.5m (8’) high?</li> </ul> <p><b>Internal lighting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are timer switches used for when you’re not at home?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p>High-efficiency, low-energy dusk to dawn lights or motion-activated lights come on during darkness and prevent hiding places.</p> <p>Lights positioned at least 2.5m (8’) high reduce chances of tampering.</p> <p>24-hour timer switches for lamps and radios make the home look lived in when no-one is at home.</p>

<p><b>Garages, sheds and outbuildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do all entrances and connecting doors have strong locks fitted?</li> <li>• Are the door hinges exposed or heavy duty?</li> <li>• Are all windows secure and have an obscured view of inside?</li> <li>• Are your tools and equipment locked away?</li> <li>• Are bikes stored securely?</li> <li>• Have you security marked tools and valuables including bikes, and recorded serial numbers?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p> <p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p>Use the same locks as you would for the house doors or use substantial and robust padlocks.</p> <p>Heavy duty hinges or hinge bolts make it more difficult to enter.</p> <p>Obscuring windows stops burglars seeing expensive equipment inside.</p> <p>Ideally all tools and equipment should be stored inside a secure shed, garage or outbuilding so they can't be used as breaking in tools. Bikes should also be locked up in a secure building.</p> <p>All valuable items should be security marked and registered with <a href="http://www.immobilise.com">www.immobilise.com</a>.</p>
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## Useful organisations



**Secured by Design** has a list of police approved suppliers and installers of security products. For more information visit [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)



**Immobilise** allows you to register any valuable items with a unique serial number for free. If they are found after being lost or stolen the police can check the serial number against the [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) database



**Sold Secure** offers a range of police approved security products for your home, garage and vehicle, visit [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) or call 01327 464687



**The Bobby Scheme** offers all burglary victims aged 60 or over a free security assessment and installation of security devices. For £25 the same service is available for anyone aged 65 or over or vulnerable adults of any age who are concerned about being a victim

Visit [www.thebobbyscheme.org](http://www.thebobbyscheme.org) or call 01480 413311



**Master Locksmith Association** provide advice and guidance on suitable locks for your premises. They can also provide details of approved locksmiths. For more information visit [www.locksmiths.co.uk](http://www.locksmiths.co.uk) or call 0800 7831498



**Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (NHW)** are a partnership between local communities and the police with the aim of working together to prevent or reduce the opportunities for crime and increase the likelihood of catching criminals

For more information about NHW and how your area is currently supported visit [www.cambsnhw.org.uk](http://www.cambsnhw.org.uk)

## Additional advice

Installation of some security measures can help reduce the cost of your insurance, so make sure you check your home building and contents insurance each time you make any security changes or renewals so it accurately reflects your home security and items.

## Reporting a crime or suspicious activity

Offenders will often visit an area in the days leading up to a burglary to scope out potential targets. If you believe someone knocking at your door could be a burglar then contact the police immediately.

### Keep a note of anything unusual including:

- Description and registration number of suspicious vehicles
- As much information as possible about suspicious incidents e.g. dates, times and descriptions of anyone you believe may be involved
- Details of any witnesses

### Report suspicious activity by calling:

- 999 if a crime is in progress
- 101 for a police non-emergency
- Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

**For more information or advice on your home security:**

**Visit:** [www.cambs.police.uk/GetCloser/Burglary.asp](http://www.cambs.police.uk/GetCloser/Burglary.asp)

**Call:** your local Crime Reduction Officer on 101

Call: **101**

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