

TOP TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

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 on 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.
- **Secure** ladders and tools in a locked garage or shed.
- Keep gadgets, jewellery and cash away from windows where possible.
- **Join your local Neighbourhood Watch** to pick up other valuable crime prevention tips. And if there isn't one, start one (see details on back page).
- **Make sure potential burglars 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 in people you do not know. If you're suspicious of someone who you think may be a burglar, ring the Police.
- **Take precautions**
Ensure that you take pictures of, or mark your property, in case you are burgled.
- **Don't let anyone in your home** if you're alone and not expecting a visitor. Anyone with a genuine reason for calling will understand and will 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 within five minutes

TOP TIPS TO PREVENT CAR CRIME

Car Crime

Car security starts at home

Criminals break into homes to steal car keys, or they fish for them through letterboxes. 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, why not invest in a steering wheel lock too?

Don't leave items on display

Satellite Navigation Systems, sunglasses, coats and even spare change can tempt the opportunist thief. Remember to wipe away Sat Nav marks on your windscreen.

Park Safely

Use your garage if you have one. If not, try to park in a busy well-lit, open place. When parking outside, try and park in an attended car park.

Invest in security devices

Engine immobilisers prevent your vehicle from starting while alarms can deter thieves from stealing your vehicle and taking items from it.

Mark your equipment

Mark belongings such as Sat Navs with your house number & postcode and have windows and windscreens etched with your registration number or the last seven digits of your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

Wing mirrors

Fold in your wing mirrors if possible while the car is parked as this can prevent damage to them