

General home security – advice from South Yorkshire Police

Recent burglaries have seen that one out of every two burglaries are committed via an unlocked door or window. Therefore, one of the most important steps to prevent your home from being burgled is to always remember to lock them!

The security around your home starts at the perimeter of your property and ranges from security lighting, sturdy locking gates to removing valuables and attractive items from view.

Check list

- I've checked that all the doors and windows are locked - even if I'm only popping out for a minute.
- My door locks meet British standards
- I've made sure that neither my house keys nor my car keys are in sight or easy reach of my windows or doors, and that I don't keep them in an obvious place in the house.
- I've fitted key-operated locks to all the windows.
- I've installed a visible burglar alarm, and I turn it on whenever I leave the house.
- I haven't hidden my spare keys outside, or in the garage or shed.
- I leave the lights and the radio on a timer for the evening when I'm out, so that it looks like I'm in. If it's dark outside I also draw the curtains.
- I've made sure thieves can't get into the garden - there's a good fence surrounding the house and the side gate is sturdy and padlocked. The garden shed is also locked.
- I haven't left any ladders or tools outside, which someone could use to get into the house.
- I've made sure that valuables like laptops, handbags, jewellery can't be seen from the window.
- I haven't left any cash lying around or any documents with my name, address or other personal details (such as a bank statement or bill) that fraudsters could use.
- If I'm going on holiday, I've arranged for a friend or neighbour to collect the post and put the bins out.

2 in 1 burglars

Some burglars are looking for your car keys so they can steal your car. Make it hard for thieves. Don't leave car keys where they are visible.

Visible burglar alarms are good, and outside lighting puts burglars off. But make sure that your security lights are positioned out of reach of a burglar, and that they don't disturb your neighbours. Your alarm should turn itself off after 20 minutes at the most (this is in case it goes off when you're not there).

Mark your property

Mark important and expensive possessions (such as your computer or DVD player) with your postcode and house number using special security marker pens. Keep a record of the make, model and serial numbers of all your electrical equipment for reference too. If the police recover them after a burglary, this record will be proof that they are stolen goods - and that they are yours.

You can register your property on the national database Immobilise.

Log on to www.immobilise.co.uk