



Official Police Security Initiative



Home Security Tips and Advice

Secured by Design is the UK Police Security Initiative that focuses on crime prevention of homes and commercial premises. Our advice and guidance is proven to reduce burglary by 75%. A not-for-profit organisation Secured by Design is owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

It does not take much to improve security and there are a wide range of products and

solutions to suit all tastes and budgets. Good prevention denies the use of normally available tools, increases the risk for the thief by increasing the noise, effort and time to steal, or reduces the value to the thief.

Our security checklist provides easy to follow advice and tips to secure your home against burglars. For further information please visit www.securedbydesign.com

Home Security checklist

Burglars are opportunistic, they look for easy ways to get in to a home that won't take long or arouse suspicion. Homes that look unoccupied and insecure are more likely to be targeted. Here is a checklist to help you improve the security in and around your home, many of which will not cost anything.

Doors, windows and locks

- When replacing a door buy a new "door set", the complete assembled frame and door, certified to **PAS 24 'Doors of Enhanced Security'**.
- Make sure doors are solid enough and can't be easily kicked-in.
- Install windows which are certified to British Standard **BS7950 "Windows of Enhanced Security" or PAS 24**.
- **Glass panels** on or around doors and in ground floor or accessible windows are vulnerable; replace them with **laminated glass** as it holds together when shattered.
- **Mortise locks** fit into a slot cut into the edge of the door and usually can only be opened with a key. These should be upgraded to **5-lever locks** tested to **BS 3621**.
- **Rim locks** are screwed to the face of the door and latch automatically when you close the door, unless held open with the snib. These should be tested to **BS 3621**.
- **Multi-point** locking involves several hooks or bolts holding the door into the frame. The lock cylinders should be tested to **BS EN 1303 Grade 3**.
- If you are replacing your **lock cylinder** make sure it is to standard **TS007 or Sold Secure SS312 Diamond Standard**.
- When installing **patio doors** ask for the sliding section to be on the inside and for anti-lift blocks.
- Existing patio doors can be fitted with additional security bolts to stop lifting or forced entry.

Around the front and back of your home

- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing **locked gates, 2 metre minimum fencing or walls**. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult.
- **Security lighting** can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable and observed.

- **Illuminate high risk areas** and make sure it's easy for you to see people approaching.
- Fit **padlocks** and **hardware** to **shed** and **garage** doors.
- Securely lock all doors and shut all windows before leaving the house. It's easy to forget when you're in hurry, but it's the simplest way for a burglar to enter your home.
- Never leave keys anywhere near the front door, including your letterbox; burglars know where to look.
- Make sure that passers-by can see the front of your home so that a burglar can't work without being seen.
- Remove and secure items that may be used to break in or climb up such as ladders and garden tools.

Inside your home

- Visibly and permanently **marking your belongings** helps you and the police identify them if they are stolen. It can also make it difficult for the thief to dispose of the property.

Are you at home?

- A home that looks empty is far more likely to be targeted by a burglar, so it's worth making sure your home looks occupied.
- Do not close your curtains during the daytime; this can suggest your home is empty.
- **Use automatic timer-switches** to turn on a light and perhaps a radio when it goes dark, even if you are just going out for a couple of hours.
- If you're away for longer periods of time, cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries.
- A pile of post on the doormat is a clear sign that you are away. Ask a trusted neighbour to clear your post away, or use **Royal Mail's "keepsafe" service**; they will keep your mail for up to two months.
- A neighbour may also be able to help you by opening and closing curtains and even parking their car on your driveway.
- Work with your neighbours to keep an eye on each other's security, **Neighbourhood Watch** groups are good for this.
- And of course, make sure that you lock all doors and windows and set your **burglar alarm** if you have one.

For more information please visit www.securedbydesign.com/aware