

Use security equipment

Security equipment can make a real difference in delaying or deterring burglars, and if you install equipment approved by your insurance company you could reduce your premiums.

Take a look at your home and try to work out your security weak points by imagining how a burglar would break in or how you would gain entry to your home if you had lost your keys. Fit window locks. Easily visible locks may deter some thieves because they force them to break the glass, which could attract attention. Remember to remove window keys and keep them out of sight in a safe place.



Have an intruder alarm system installed by an approved contractor. This will act as a deterrent against burglary and provide you with added security. Ensure a visible alarm box is attached to the outside of your home.

Use door chains and spyholes to give you extra security if someone knocks on your door. Never be afraid to turn people away, and if you're worried about anyone on your doorstep call the police. If you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch or a No Cold Calling Zone, let people know by displaying stickers in your window.

According to the British Crime Survey there were 1.7 million domestic burglaries committed in England and Wales in 1996. By 2008 this figure had dropped to 729,000. While this type of crime may be falling, you should still follow the burglary prevention advice in this leaflet and make sure you don't become a statistic.

To report any suspicious people, activity or vehicles to the police please call 0845 045 45 45 or in an emergency dial 999.

For further advice and information on securing your home, visit the Hampshire Constabulary website at: www.hampshire.police.uk

Additional contacts:

Sold Secure — for a list of recognised security products: www.soldsecure.com

Crimestoppers — if you have any information on burglaries or other crime call 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Immobilise — to register your valuables in case of loss or theft: www.immobilise.com

Neighbourhood Watch — to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the community: www.hantsnwa.org.uk

Secured by Design — the official police flagship for security and 'designing out crime': www.securedbydesign.com

A guide to avoid becoming a victim of burglary



Domestic burglaries in the UK cost the taxpayer £2.9 billion a year. Burglary peaked in the mid-1990s and then fell by 59 per cent between 1995 and 2008, but you can help reduce burglary statistics in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight even further.

The effect of burglary on victims can be traumatic. As well as the financial loss, victims may require emotional support to help them come to terms with the experience.



Most burglaries are committed by opportunist criminals. By taking the simple precautions listed in this leaflet you really can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of burglary.

Don't tempt them

Properties are more likely to be burgled if they are unoccupied, the security is poor and the burglar thinks they will not be seen or caught.

- Keep valuable items out of view – do not keep expensive visual and audio equipment by the window where passers-by can see it.

- Never leave a key under a doormat, flowerpot or on a piece of string through the letterbox.

- Keep your house and car keys out of view and in a secure place. Never leave them in the door or where they can be easily reached by intruders. Ensure other members of your household know where the keys are kept in case of an emergency.

- Make sure tools and ladders are kept in a secure place – burglars will happily use your own equipment to break into your home.

- Don't allow burglars to work unobserved – keep any fences and planting at the front of your home no higher than waist height.

Secure doors and windows

In 20 per cent of break-ins burglars get in through an open door or window.

- Make sure you secure all your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even if you are 'just popping out'.

- If you are in the garden or upstairs, make sure your downstairs doors and windows are locked. Ensure they are also locked at night. Burglars can often just open unlocked doors and windows and help themselves to your possessions.

Secure outbuildings

- Don't leave valuable property in a shed which is either unlocked or so run-down that it is no obstacle to a thief. Fit decent locks to your shed door. Padlocks used externally should be no less than 6cm wide and made of hardened steel. A closed shackle type is best, as thieves cannot get the likes of a crowbar through the shackle to break it.

- If you have a garage don't be fooled into thinking it is more secure than a shed. Make sure a suitable lock is fitted and a shed alarm or similar is installed. Many up-and-over style garage doors are easily broken into, but a padlock with a hasp and staple on the inside is an effective way of improving security.

Look like you're in, even when you're out

Most burglars target only empty homes. If you're out of the house all day or if you're going away, try to make it look like someone is there and don't advertise your absence.

- Use timer switches – available from most DIY stores – to switch on lights, radios and other appliances when you're out or away.

- Hide financial documents. If someone does break in you don't want them to also steal from your bank account. Shred any unwanted paperwork – don't just throw it away.

- If you're going away, get a friend or neighbour to collect your post, draw your curtains, park in your drive and make your home look lived in.

- Remember to cancel milk and papers.