

The following advice has been compiled to help prevent you falling prey to criminals

OUTSIDE THE HOME

- Make thieves feel exposed when they approach the front of your property using low hedges or low fencing.
- Use garden lighting to deter trespassers. Choose lights which come on automatically at dusk and stay on all night until dawn. Low wattage bulbs can cost less than 1p per night in electricity.
- Growing a hedge made from a prickly bush or planting prickly bushes next to fences can deter trespassers from climbing over.
- Don't leave tools and ladders lying around for burglars to use.
- Ensure your shed is secure using a good quality hasp & staple with a closed shackle padlock. Glue can be smeared over the heads of screws to prevent them being removed.
- Lock pedal cycles to something fixed and secure the frame with a 'D' lock.

Take extra care with your home security and assist elderly or vulnerable neighbours

PHYSICAL SECURITY

- 1 in 3 burglaries occur due to an open or unlocked window or door.
- Always close and lock all doors and windows when you go out or to another part of the home where you wouldn't hear someone.
- Fit British Standard deadlocks to external doors and remember to use them whether you are in or out.
- Always remove the keys from the locks to stop someone breaking a small pane of glass and entering using the key. Keep them out of sight and in a safe place.
- Fit locks to windows and ensure you choose one that pulls the window into the frame.
- Patio and French doors can be protected by fitting one or two purpose made locks.

Suppliers of suitably accredited products can be obtained by visiting www.securedbydesign.com

INSIDE THE HOME

ALARMS

- Ensure your alarm is working correctly.
- If burglars do get into your home, it will make them leave quickly.
- Use it at night. Most systems can be 'zoned'.

LIGHTS

- Make the home look occupied when you are out or away.
 - Leave lights on in the bedroom and bathroom, not just in the hall. Automatic timers can switch on lights and radios.
- Remember that in winter it can go dark in the early afternoon.

PROPERTY

- Keep valuables out of sight of windows.
- Make items traceable. Postcode property with a UV pen or consider specialist liquid forensic coded solutions.
- Photograph valuables, such as jewellery and antiques and record this information securely.

- Register your property on www.immobilise.com

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PROPERTY CRIME