



Securing your **Home**

**Advice from Nottinghamshire Police's
Prevention Team**



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
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www.nottinghamshire.police.uk



Your home



Contrary to popular belief, most domestic burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves looking for the easiest way of getting into your home without being seen or disturbed. Sometimes they don't even have to use force - they get through an open window or door.

+ Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar. Are there places where a burglar could break into your home without being seen? How would you get in if you had forgotten your keys? If you could get inside, so could a burglar.

Securing your home is the best way to reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of burglary. Follow this advice to ensure your home is as secure as possible.

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Home security checklist



Windows and doors

- When you go out, always close, and lock external doors and windows, even if you are just going out for a short time or you are in the rear garden
- If you are having new windows and doors installed, ensure they are certified to PAS 24:2022 standards
- Fit a five-lever mortice lock (British Standard 3621) to all exterior doors. The lock is only as effective as the frame it is fitted to so make sure this is in good condition
- Consider having additional locks fitted to your patio/French doors for additional protection
- UPVC or composite doors have multi-locking systems, but it is strongly recommended they are fitted with an anti-snap lock cylinder (TS007) of 3* standard as a minimum
- Burglars do not like to be seen or heard, so consider applying anti-shatter film to glass windows or doors. This film protects the glass and provides a shatter proof protective layer
- Before fitting extra locks to UPVC windows, talk to the fitter to make sure it won't affect the warranty
- If you have deadlocks, use them. They make it more difficult for a thief to get out again. But don't leave the key near the door or in an obvious place nearby
- If you have a flat roof extension the windows above it should always be locked
- A spyhole in your front door allows you to see who is there. A door chain allows you to open the door a little way to talk to the caller without opening it fully

Keys

- Ensure your keys are kept in a safe place out of sight and well away from your letterbox

- Don't tag keys so they can be easily identified
- Keep all spare keys in a safe place
- Don't leave spare keys outside or in a garage or shed
- Consider using a faraday pouch for keyless ignition car fobs

Protecting the perimeter of your property

Planning regulations govern many changes you can make to the outside of your home, including erecting walls and fences. However, you don't need to apply for planning permission to make every change you might want to. Check with your local planning authority.

- At the rear of your property, hedges, fences, or walls can be up to 1.8 metres high. Gates leading to the rear of your property should be the same height and padlocked, with a bolt top, middle and bottom with a central padlock
- Consider additional trellis for added security and plant prickly or thorny shrubbery along the inside of the perimeter
- Consider installing Dusk till Dawn lighting which activates when dusk arrives and switches off when it is light
- Lights should be fitted high and out of reach

Securing Your Home

Intruder alarms

Visible burglar alarms and carefully directed security lighting can deter burglars.

If you are considering buying a new intruder alarm, it's a good idea to obtain at least three quotes from industry approved installers, such as NSI (National Security Inspectorate) or SSAIB (Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board), or talk to your insurer who may have some recommendations.

You could also use the Trading Standards website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk to check for vetted suppliers in your area.

Three types of intruder alarms are available:



Monitored alarm

If the system is breached, a monitoring station informs the key holders and police within minutes.



Audible only alarms

If activated, an alarm sound will alert your neighbours. These alarms are less expensive than monitored systems and are a good deterrent. However, you cannot guarantee anyone in the area will react to it and alert you or the police.



Auto-dialling alarm

If the alarm is activated, the sound will alert your neighbours and the system will dial a series of telephone numbers. This allows the receiver to respond to the alarm.

Garages and sheds

- Garages and sheds are often used to store expensive tools and equipment. A burglar could use these to break into your home
- To reduce the chance of this happening, fit a strong hasp and padlock to your shed and garage doors. Make sure the doors are strong enough to resist being kicked or pushed in
- Never leave garages or sheds unlocked. If you have nothing of value inside your shed, then it is advisable to keep the shed unlocked to save any potential damage caused by an offender

- Consider fitting an intruder alarm, either linked to the house alarm or a separate stand-alone system
- Move ladders, tables, chairs, and wheelie bins so that they cannot be used to climb on. If possible, chain and padlock them to a strong anchor point
- Visibly mark the property you keep in your shed and garage and use anchor points to secure larger tools and equipment
- Register your valuables at the national online property database - Immobilise, so that police can reunite you with them if they are ever stolen and later recovered. Visit: www.immobilise.com



Securing Your Home

Be a good neighbour

If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, call the police on **101** or, in an emergency, call **999**.

Make a note of any small details, including clothing, make and model of vehicle, accents, or bodily scars. Little details can make a big difference in aiding police to identify possible offenders.

Living in a flat or shared housing

- Consider having a phone entry system fitted to the main door of your building
- Never buzz open the door for strangers or hold open the door for someone you don't know
- Never leave the communal door ajar
- Get home contents insurance
- If you are a student, take all your high value belongings with you when you go home for the holidays, or use secure storage schemes run by your college or university if available
- If you live in halls of residence, always lock your room even if you are just going down the corridor



Going on holiday

- Suspend any deliveries, such as milk or newspapers
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property
- Try to make your home look occupied while you are not there
- Use timer switches on lamps or your radio
- Consider using a TV simulator to give the impression someone is at home
- Do not advertise the fact you are on holiday via social media, you are spreading word there is a potential empty home



Fire Safety

- When fitting security devices, consider how you would escape if there was a fire

- Fit at least one smoke detector on every floor of your home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully and check they are working at least once a month
- For more information about smoke alarms advice and guidance visit: www.notts-fire.gov.uk
- Agree a plan with your family for getting out of your home in an emergency •
Know where your keys are at all times



Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

There are more than 170,000 schemes in the UK. Anyone can start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Ask for details at your local police station or visit: www.ourwatch.org.uk

Marking your property

There are many ways of marking your valuables. Some would be easy to replace if they were stolen, but others hold immense sentimental value and would be impossible to replace.

Consider taking photos of valuable items with a tape measure to the side. This information should be stored on a log so if the items go missing, we have an accurate record of the items.

Consider buying a safe for personal papers, passports, and small items of jewellery. This must be secured to the floor or a wall.

Many stolen items are recovered by the police every year but cannot be returned to their rightful owner because they cannot be identified. Below are some examples of how you can mark or register your property to ensure it is returned to you, if it is ever stolen.

Ultraviolet or invisible marking

It can only be seen by an ultraviolet lamp, although it does fade over time and can be washed off eventually.

Permanent marking

Suitable for hard surfaces by engraving or etching.

For more information about property marking advice visit:

www.securedbydesign.com



Immobilise

Register with “Immobilise”. It is a free online service where you can store details of any devices or property on the database. Police can access the system and conduct property searches in order to check seized property, identify stolen items and re-unite items with their owners. Having items logged onto this register also helps simplify insurance claims and police reports when

being investigated. www.immobilise.com



Bike register

Protect your bikes by registering them through: www.bikeregister.com

For information on how best to protect your bike: <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/bike-security>

Tracking for laptops and smartphones

These can now be traced if stolen by using online tracking software, which is usually free. Search online and register your laptop or phone.



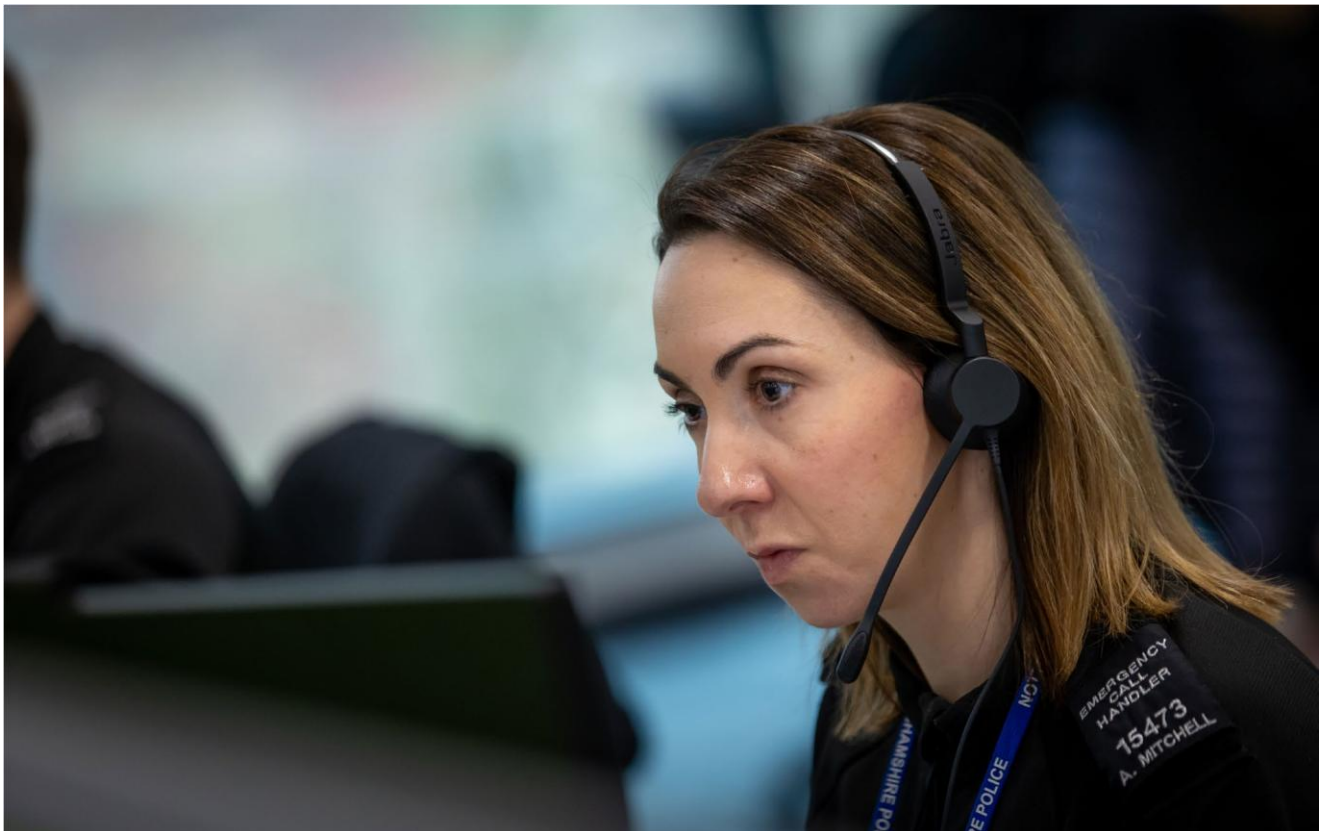
Know your IMEI number

If your mobile phone is lost or stolen, your network provider will want to know your IMEI number. This can be found by typing `*#06#` into your phone. Make a note of the number that appears and keep it safe.

Personal safety at home

While securing your property, there are additional measures that can keep yourself and your belongings safe.

- If you think an intruder is in your home, only you can decide how to deal with the situation. Think now about what you might do - you might not be thinking clearly if it ever happens to you
- If you arrive home and you think an intruder could be inside, don't go inside alone. Go to a neighbour or friend's house and raise the alarm. Call the police immediately on **999**
- In the unlikely event that you are at home and an intruder enters the home, find a safe place and call the Police immediately. Make sure you have a phone within reaching distance at all times so you can easily raise the alarm
- It is best not to challenge an intruder but to alert the police straight away



Vulnerable persons

At times, you may feel more vulnerable at home, but a few simple steps can help reduce the risk of you becoming a victim of crime.

- Don't keep large sums of cash at home - use a bank account instead

- Many areas run schemes specifically aimed at assisting older people with home security and general maintenance. You should ask advice from your local police officers, local authority or community groups
- If your area has a community alarm system, consider joining the scheme so you can alert someone if you trip or fall or are feeling unsafe at home
- Keep a list of useful telephone numbers by your phone. This could include members of your family, close friends and 101 for your local police, and your local council



Bogus callers

Most people who call at your home will be genuine, but sometimes criminals do try to trick their way into people's homes.

This advice will help to keep you safe at home:

LOCK keep your front and back doors locked even when you are at home.

STOP before you answer, stop and think whether you are expecting anyone. Check you have locked the back door and taken the key out. Look through a spyhole or window to see who the caller is.

CHAIN if you decide to open the door, put the chain or door bar on first if you have one. Keep the chain or bar on while you are talking to the caller.

CHECK even if the caller has a pre-arranged appointment with you, check their identity card carefully. Close the door while you do this. If you are still unsure, call the company concerned to verify their representative's identity. Don't use a phone number on the card, as it could be fake. Look up the company in the phone book, or online if you can.

Most utility companies operate a password scheme for older or vulnerable customers. You can register with the scheme and their representative will have to confirm your password when they visit to prove they are a genuine employee of the company.

Bogus callers may be smartly dressed, can be wearing high viz clothing and often claim to be from the police, the council or the 'water board'. They sometimes claim to be builders or gardeners and try to trick people into paying.

If you think a bogus caller has been to your home, call the police immediately on 999.

If you have any doubts, keep them out.

Notts Alerts



If it matters to you, it matters to us

Sign up to our free local community messaging service, and get the latest information at your fingertips.

Get the information you want

- Crime alerts from police in your area
- Warnings about scams and fraud
- Have your say about policing where you live
- Decide how you receive messages, for example; email, text, etc

To register, visit: www.nottsalerts.co.uk or scan the QR code.





For more advice on crime prevention contact:

Prevention Team,
Nottinghamshire Police,
Sherwood Lodge,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire
NG5 8PP



