

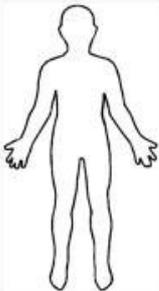
HOW TO KEEP YOUR PROPERTY/VALUABLES SAFE:

25% of burglaries are due to insecure doors and windows. This applies to vehicles, homes, sheds or garages. Here are some security tips:

- Secure all doors and windows. Even on security lock, windows can be forced open.
- Remove any valuable items from view. Keep handbags, wallets, keys and other valuable hidden and far away from access doors and windows. Applicable to vehicles also: an old jacket left in the car may not be worth much but a perpetrator will not hesitate in breaking a window to check if there are valuables inside it, causing damage, expense and distress.
- Consider installing CCTV with both internal and external cameras. Ensuring that all access points are covered. Check cameras regularly to make sure they are working as they should. Install a door bell with camera, which you can monitor via mobile app.
- Test your burglar alarm. Ensure alarm system is in good working order by testing all contacts and cleaning cobwebs/dust: a faulty alarm that keeps going off regularly is likely to be dismissed by neighbours and become a nuisance, therefore ineffective to attract potential witnesses. Contract a monitoring company or get an alarm notification via mobile app. Alternatively, provide your contact details to your neighbours so they can contact you in an emergency or activation.
- A cheaper alternative to a burglar alarm or a good addition security feature is to place small vibrating shock sensors to ground floor windows and doors (pack of 4 normally costs £25). These are battery operated, therefore no wires to install and can be switched off whilst you are indoors.
- Invest in motion activated lights externally. Solar security lights are easy to install and cheaper to maintain. However, in winter you may need to rely on an electrical sourced light.
- Install a bell on back of side/rear gate: this can be disabled during the day; however, it can alert of an intrusion at night. In case of your absence, neighbours can also be alerted specially if it sounds at 2 am!
- Avoid permanently parking your caravan/mobile home in your drive. It is a give away sign that you may be away when such vehicle is no longer there.
- Some burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary. They sometimes return to an area to try to burgle a nearby home that they spotted while committing a previous break in. Even more reason for you to ensure you keep your home as safe as houses.
- If you have high value items such as jewellery, watches, passports, credit cards, computer data and identification documents, you may want to consider storing them in a safe, hide the safe also. Take photos and mark valuables. Register your valuables free of charge using one of the accredited property databases such as [Immobilise](#).
- Give burglars nowhere to hide: maintain your garden with lower fences. Overgrown bushes provide a hiding place for a burglar and stolen property.
- If you have metal drainpipes, grease them with petroleum jelly. Some burglars have been known to climb up drain pipes.
- If you are going away: Ask a neighbour to move your post and waste bin. Putting your bin out days before collection is due may be a sign for opportunists to know you may be away. Ask someone to park a vehicle in your drive every other day, to open/shut curtains every day to show regular

presence. Invest in lamps with different timers, alternate rooms and days. Leave TV/radio on timers. Block dog flap if you have one.

- Avoid posting on social media that you just arrived in another country/county. Post selfies taken away from home, after you have safely returned home.
- Remember to cancel milk/newspaper deliveries.
- Join the Neighbourhood Scheme. Streets that are actively covered are less likely to be targeted. Get to know your neighbours: this will help you better identify unfamiliar faces in your street, aside visitors and delivery persons.
- Advise your loved ones that may be vulnerable not to open the door unless they are expecting a visit/delivery. If in doubt, open a top window or window on security latch (bungalows only) to speak to the person. ID's can be faked, always verify with an independent supplier/contact number (not the number given by person at the door) to make sure caller is genuine, before opening the door. It is illegal to sell door to door without a peddler licence, unfortunately the majority of licences are fake. If price is too good to be true, it probably is. More info at <https://archive.northants.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/Preventing%20doorstep%20crime.pdf>; Check that vulnerable residents have a working panic alarm. Have a neighbour check on their welfare regularly.
- Report any suspicious activity to Police.

	DATE ___/___/___ TIME ___:___ AM/PM	
	LOCATION _____	
	In an emergency call 999 and ask for police if a crime is in progress. To report suspicious behaviour then call 101 and write down the below info.	
Vehicle details GB _____ Make _____ Model _____ Colour _____ Number of passengers _____ Direction of travel _____	Person details Skin colour, age, height? _____  Clothes? Distinctive features?	Circumstances What did you see? _____ _____ _____ Seen them before? _____ Other info (use space on back also)
In an emergency always call 999 For enquiries or to give info call 101		

Helpful Numbers:

Citizens Advice Consumer Service 03454 04 05 06

Trading Standards 0300 126 1000

Silverline Friendship Helpline for Older residents 0800 4 70 80 90

