

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Home Security



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Most burglaries are committed by opportunist criminals who happen to see insecure premises where they can help themselves to the property inside. In most cases the burglary could have been prevented.

By following a few simple precautions, you can reduce the chance of you becoming a victim of burglary.

- Fit secure locks to all doors and fit a door chain or bar.
- Fit visible window locks, including rear or side windows and those above a low roof.
- Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice; get specialist advice and consult your insurance company.
- Use timer switches to turn on lights and radios when you are out to give the impression that your home is occupied.
- Be alert to strangers loitering in residential streets; if in doubt call the police.
- Be aware of fire risks and means of escape. Make sure you have a smoke alarm fitted.
- Never leave spare keys in a hiding place such as under a doormat, in a flowerpot or inside the letterbox.
- Ensure valuables are suitably security marked; if not practicable, take photographs of valuable items and keep a note of any serial numbers.

For Further Crime Prevention Advice dial 101 and ask to speak to the Crime Reduction Officer for your area

- Ensure that handbags, wallets, mobile phones and car keys are kept safely in your bedroom at night. Some thieves purposely enter houses to take car keys in order to steal cars sat on the driveway.
- Fit a strong, lockable gate across side passages.
- Always leave garages and sheds locked.
- Consider fitting an alarm to your garage or shed.
- Keep any ladders locked.
- Keep expensive garden equipment and furniture locked in a shed overnight or when you are away.
- Provide good lighting and fit movement detectors.
- Keep dustbins and wheelie-bins away from fencing/gates, which access your property (these are used by thieves to easily climb over barriers).
- Keep hedges and shrubs at the front of your house cut down to a height of 1m and pollard tree branches up to 2.4m. This provides clear sight lines across the front of your property enhancing natural surveillance and creates a 'see and be seen feel'.

If you have been a victim of burglary we can visit you and provide direct advice on how to avoid being a repeat victim. Simply dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Crime Reduction Officer.

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