



Home Security and Crime Prevention advice

We have created this leaflet to inform residents of the most useful information with regards burglaries. This has not been created to shock or scare, but to inform and act as a prevention of crime.



Mark your property to deter burglars

Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a property or police approved forensic marking solution only visible under Ultraviolet (UV) light. This can take the form of a special marker using ink or paint. Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your address.

Property marking isn't only for things like electrical items and bikes, you can also mark high value belongings like antiques.

To find more information and to see if you're eligible for a free pack, or other ways to get SmartWater, visit our Met Trace page:

www.met.police.uk/about-the-met/campaigns/MetTrace/

Register your valuables free of charge using one of the accredited property databases such as:

www.immobilise.com

Take photographs and keep documents like receipts related to your property so you can prove ownership.

If you value your bike, then register it with

www.bikeregister.com The prominent stamp acts as a great deterrent.



Window stickers and signage

are extremely effective and are proven to be a powerful deterrent against burglary.

Join your Neighbourhood Watch.

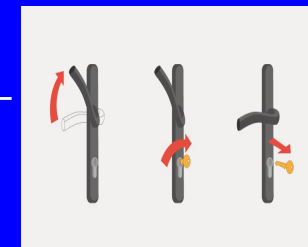
By becoming part of your local Neighbourhood Watch, you'll be joining other likeminded neighbours who, by keeping their eyes and ears open, help to keep potential criminals out of the area.



Your home is only as secure as its weakest point of entry. That's why it's so important to have doors and windows that are as secure as possible.

Simply shutting the door won't prevent burglaries. Double-lock the door every single time you leave the house.

Modern multi-locking and UPVC doors use a system of hooks and latches to secure the door but these only work if you lift up the handle and then remember to turn and remove the key. **Remember – lift, lock and remove.**



Try to get into good habits when you lock up your home.

Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes. Make sure that any valuables are out of sight. Keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening. Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways. In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on. If you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night. Make sure the side gate is locked.

Going away?

Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings safe while you're away.

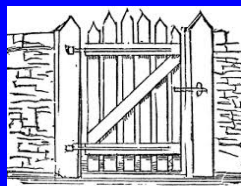
1. If you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

Protect your home by gardening:

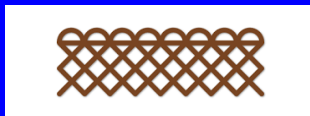
1 - Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under 1 metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.



2 - Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.



3 - High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around



your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it

harder for burglars to climb over. Examples are: Berberis, Osmanthus, Forget, Poncirus & Crataegus.

4 - Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.



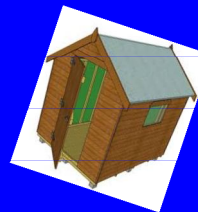
5 - Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.



6 - Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system.



7 - Secure shed door and window; always keep your shed locked and secured. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.



8 - Never leave tools lying around; as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.



Give Burglars nowhere to hide

Burglars don't want to be seen or heard and if they think they'll be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by, then they're likely to feel exposed and identifiable, which will probably make them move on.

From our experience people tend to leave expensive, valuable and sentimental items in obvious places. Bedside drawers and cupboards are the first place burglars will look. They tend to head straight for bedrooms as this is where the majority of home owners leave their most precious items. **Please think "outside the box" and move all of the above items to places out of the ordinary.** If you have a safe then always use this and if considering in buying one, secure it to a concrete floor in a hidden location.



If you have any questions, queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact your local policing team. Our contact details are:

Email : Sanderstead.SNT@met.police.uk

Call: 0208 721 2470. (Pc Dan Revell, Robert Brett and PCSO Sam Brooks).