



HOME SECURITY CHALLENGE



How secure is your home,? Probably not as secure as it should be. That's why Neighbourhood Watch and Hampshire Constabulary are joining forces to help you improve your home safety and reduce the chances of becoming a burglary victim. To assist the police in preventing burglaries we need you to do your part by taking our Home Security Challenge. Simply answer the questions below to identify how secure your home is. Where your home falls short in the security stakes, consider how you can rectify this to help protect your property and keep crime down.

Approaching the outside of your home

Does the exterior of your property need lighting for neighbours to view those accessing your property.

Yes

No

If the answer is no you could consider installing external dusk to dawn lighting or low level feature lighting.

Does your property have defensive planting under windows to prevent access to windows?

Yes

No

If the answer is no consider planting plants with a defensive nature for example, thorny bushes, roses, pyracanthus etc.

Is your property boundary enclosed with a fence?

Yes

No

If the answer is yes, putting trellis all the way around including over gates can prevent unwanted access.

If you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is your window sticker visible?

Yes

No

If the answer is no, please contact your local NW co-ordinator or police officer for advice.

Do you have a notice in the door asking cold callers not to call?

Yes

No

If the answer is no then contact Trading Standards or your NW co-ordinator for information.

SUMMARY

The main aim of this section is to ensure that your home looks 'lived in' at all times. By removing obvious clues to your absence this will make an opportunistic burglar consider another option. An active Neighbourhood Watch can help greatly to encourage neighbourliness and deter crime. Letterboxes are a tricky area to protect, simple measures can be taken to reduce accessing the front door, and for example, a good quality external mail box could be fitted to the property in lieu of a letterbox. Mailguard™ which is a bag type product fitted internally onto your letterbox to capture the mail.

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Your Home

How safe is your front door – does it feel secure and is the frame in good condition?

Yes

No

How safe is your back door – feel secure and is the frame in good condition?

Yes

No

If the answer to both of these question is no, go to www.securedbydesign.co.uk and look for the approved kite marked product or visit your local DIY suppliers for information

Are your doors wooden and fitted with a 5 lever mortice lock which you always use?

Yes

No

If yes, continue to use the lock.

If no, consider installing an approved 5 lever mortice lock.

Do you have UPVC doors?

Yes

No

If yes, do you ensure that you lock the doors correctly by lifting the handle **AND** using the key?

Do you have patio doors?

Yes

No

If yes, please check the following:

Is it externally hung?

Can it be lifted from it's frame?

Yes

No

If yes, place a piece of wood between the top frame and the opening door to prevent lift. Consider adding locks internally to prevent the door from being slid or lifted.

Are your windows fitted with locks?

Yes

No

If no, have a registered locksmith either fit or advise on the relevant locks for your specific windows.

Do you have an integral garage door?

Yes

No

If yes, always lock this door and treat as an external door using an appropriate BS 5 lever mortice lock.

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Inside your home

Do you use timer switches on lamps or radios and window alarms when you are away from your property?

Yes

No

If yes, please tell others to buy them - but do not advertise the fact that you use them.
If no, purchase from local shops and DIY suppliers, use regularly both upstairs and downstairs whether you are in or out.

Have you properly marked your general property with your postcode and house number?

Yes

No

If yes, please tell others to do the same.
If no, UV mark electricals, tools, cd's, dvd's, laptops, cameras etc with your house number and postcode.

Do you have antiques?

Yes

No

If yes, seek advice from a registered antique dealer as to the best way of property marking that particular item. This could be with DNA identification.

Do you own jewellery?

Yes

No

If yes, and they are valuable items ask advice from a registered jeweller for registration and photographing for insurance purposes. Consider speaking to your bank about safe keeping.
If yes, but not so valuable, photograph your items, keep a record and store securely.

Do you leave your keys on view and easily accessible to others?

Yes

No

If yes, please do not do this. Place your house and car keys in a safe place out of view, ensure that the whole family is aware of and where they can be accessed in an emergency.

SUMMARY

The main aim of this section is to highlight that a few simple precautions may help to move an opportunistic burglar away from your home. Try not to leave keys in doors, make sure you check fire escape routes after you have put your new security measures in place to make certain that everyone who resides in the house is made aware of procedures, you can check with the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service. Ask your Insurance Company for an insurance advice check too. Finally if you have a pet dog, it may be an idea to think of how it could help keep your home safe and greet a potential burglar if it was shut away in a kitchen etc. and not visible it can't. Regarding fitting locks etc please ensure that with any changes you consult with the manufacturer to ensure guarantees are upheld.

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Gardens, Garages, Sheds and Hedges

Do you have a garden?

Yes

No

If yes, are wooden garden gates secured centrally with a hasp and closed shackle lock fitted with non returnable screws. Are your metal gates secured with a chain and closed shackle lock? Are bins or rubbish containers secured to a wall away from enabling someone to use them to gain access to your garden? If not think of securing them or move them to a different site.

Do you have a garage?

Yes

No

If yes, ensure a suitable lock is fitted and a shed alarm or similar installed consider using ground anchors for up and over garage doors.

Do you have a garden shed?

Yes

No

If yes, ensure it is fitted with a hasp and closed shackled lock and non returnable screws. Also install a shed alarm or similar. Consider using an external remote dusk to dawn light.

Is your property surrounded by hedging?

Yes

No

If yes, is it over 6 feet tall if so this needs to be reduced to 6 feet or 1.8metres.

SUMMARY

The aim of this section is to make homeowners think of their extra areas and items, if you have valuable pots/planters or ornaments in your garden, make sure they are property marked, if you have tools in your garden shed or garage then make sure you have the manufacturers codes and details for each item and property mark each item with your house number and postcode. If you have a ladder that is too big for your shed or garage use a ladder holder which secures the ladder to the property thereby stopping undesirable people gaining access to it. Remember hedging is very nice for privacy but could also stop your neighbours keeping an eye on your house for you.

Once you have used this form you do not have to give it to anyone, use the information to improve your home security and destroy the form afterwards carefully.

Crime Prevention Advice is given free without the intention of creating a contract. Neither does the Home Office nor Hampshire Constabulary take any other responsibility for the advice given.