



What basic steps can I take to protect my home?

Having your home broken into is not common. There are however many ways that you can help secure your home. They don't all cost money – some are common sense and good housekeeping.

First, think about basic good housekeeping routines that aren't expensive:

- Keep your home locked at all times
- Many thieves do not need to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else they can be easily found
- If you have a 'thumb turn' lock on the inside of a door, ensure that it cannot be accessed from outside
- See details on letter-plates, glazing and adjacent windows advice below
- Don't put your name or room number on your keyring if you live in shared accommodation, if it is lost or stolen, the thief will have information that could direct them there
- Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same key ring
- Don't keep a lot of cash in the house
- Mark your property with a UV marker pen or Security DNA marking Kit - these can be bought online or in some stores
- Look for the Secured By Design accreditation on the product and register - you can place an invisible imprint of your postcode and house number on your possessions
- You can record and register details of your valuables, serial numbers and features or marks, on devices on the national mobile property register on [the immobilise website](#) - this includes mobile phones, cameras, laptops and tablets
- Don't leave valuables where they can be seen through a window - for example, around the tree at Christmas time
- If you have a wall calendar, avoid having it shown near a window from where appointments can be seen - people may see when there will be no one in.

What can I do to protect property in my shed and garage?

- Photograph valuable items of garden furniture or tools and keep a record of the make, model, colour and serial numbers.



- Use a UV pen or DNA Marking Kit to security mark your tools or furniture with your house number and postcode
- Use a chain to lock garden tools and furniture together, ensure the anchor point is securely fixed to the ground or solid structure
- Fit a good quality hasp and padlock to the door, make sure it is fitted with dome headed or non-returnable screws to prevent tampering
- Sold Secure or [Secured By Design](#) products should be considered
- Secure windows and don't let intruders see inside
- Depending on the type of window, you could consider fitting internal window grills, heavy wire mesh or reinforced glass
- If a window opens, a window lock should be fitted
- If you have an intruder alarm, consider extending it to cover sheds, garages and outbuildings. Ensure that there is a visible external sounder box
- If you do not have a secure shed, don't leave items lying out bring items inside
- If your garage joins with your home and there is a through door, it should be to the same security standard as your front or back door, and when not being used you should keep it locked.

Trossachs and Teith Community

Website: www.scotland.police.uk

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Emergency: 999

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