

HOME SECURITY

Take some small steps to improve your home security.



BURGLAR ALARM

Alarms deter criminals as it shows that your home is protected.

Types of alarm:

- Bells-only**
 - Budget friendly
 - Activates alarm when sensor is tripped
- Monitored**
 - Additional costs
 - A central centre notifies you when alarm is tripped
- Police response**
 - Notifies police
- Speech dialler**
 - Budget friendly
 - Automatically calls you with notification

GATE

An automated gate can be the best option to secure your property.

Types of gates:

- Wooden gate**
 - Cover the cross-member with a panel so there is no foothold
- Wrought-iron gate**
 - Ornamental framework can make climbing difficult

Safety tips:

Weld hinges shut so that gate cannot be removed

GRAVEL

Acts as a deterrent as it can be noisy when stepped on

HEDGE

Should be no higher than 1.4m so your property isn't completely obscured

DELIVERIES

Cancel milk, newspapers or other deliveries if you're leaving the house unoccupied for an extended period of time

EXTERNAL DOOR

A rim latch on its own isn't sufficient. Doors should be at least 4.4cm thick with a deadlock installed.



BS1 Kitemark
Recognised symbol of quality and safety

Types of lock:

- Mortice lock**
 - 5-lever mortice deadlock fitted within the door itself
- Rim automatic deadlock**
 - Fitted to the internal surface of a door

Safety tips:

- Use the peep hole to check who's at your door
- Keep door chain secured when opening to a stranger
- Ensure all your other doors are locked
- Ask for ID and verify it (either with the company's website or a phone call)
- Ensure letterbox has an internal cover plate

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

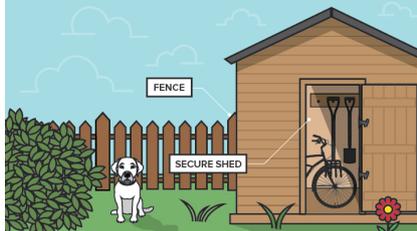
Infrared detectors can act as a deterrent

Place these at least 2m from the ground so they can't be tampered with

CCTV camera

- May require planning permission
- Inform your neighbours if you plan to install one, in case of any objections

*Tips also apply to rear of house



FENCE

These should be at least 2m high

- Trellis can make it more difficult to climb over
- Prickly bushes nearby can act as a deterrent

SHED

Secure sheds with a padlock

- Open shackle: More versatile
- Closed shackle: Higher security

*Planning permission may be required for fences



WINDOWS

- Ensure locks meet the BS1 standards (PAS24:2012 offers the highest standard of security)
- Key-operated window locks add extra security, especially on the ground floor
- Add a secondary lock to any window that opens more than 60cm
- Connect windows to the alarm system

COMPUTERS

- Webcams can be used as a home security system with the right software
- Install tracking software on your laptop/mobile in case they're ever stolen

INTERNAL DOORS

- Fit a security chain or bolt to prevent intruders getting further into your property if they do gain entry

LIGHTS

- Use a timer to switch on and off at varying intervals to make it look like someone is at home

VALUABLES

- Mark with your postcode and house number using UV pen
- Register items on imobiles.com to make any thefts easy to track
- Consider placing "Secured by Design" warning labels on your valuables and around your property

KEYS

- Keep away from doors, locks, and open windows