



Burglary proofing your home

A comprehensive security checklist

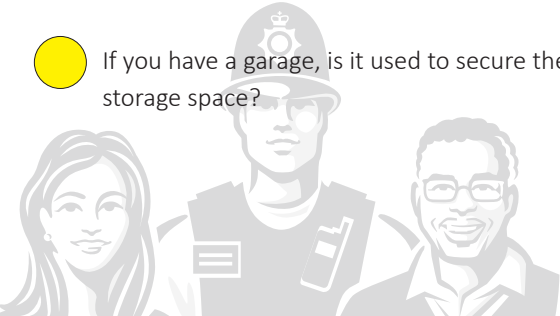
An effective way of improving the security of a property, is to consider each layer separately, like peeling an onion. The three layers to think about are perimeter (fences and walls, gardens, garages, outbuildings), shell (main building, locks, spare keys, alarms) and interior (high-value items, keys, timed lighting).

Use this checklist to take simple measures to keep your property secure.

Perimeter

(fences, walls, gardens, garages, outbuildings)

- Is the area around the house free from 'tools' that an offender could use i.e. bricks, rubble, ladders, garden equipment?
- Are sheds, garages and outbuildings always locked?
- Does the perimeter to the front of the house allow good surveillance from the road?
- Is all packaging from expensive items ie from laptops, tablets, phones, games consoles, hidden inside bins?
- Are vehicles at the premises secured when not in use?
- Are items always removed from vehicles when they are not in use ie laptops, tools, shopping bags, boxes, sat-navs or cash?
- If you have a garage, is it used to secure the vehicle(s) in, as opposed to being used as a storage space?





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Shell

(main building, locks, spare keys, alarms)

- Are spare keys left in a secure place – ie NOT under a plant pot, doormat or stone?
- Are ground-floor and accessible windows closed and locked?
- If you have euro-cylinder locks on your uPVC doors, do they meet TS 007 (3 star) or Sold Secure Diamond Standard (SS312)?
- If there is a burglar alarm is it always used?

Interior

(high-value items, keys, timed lighting)

- Are doors kept locked with the keys removed, kept out of sight/reach, but to hand in case of emergency?
- Are timer switches and/or a fake TV unit used when leaving the house unoccupied?
- Are attractive items such as jewellery, car keys, laptops, iPads, cash and phones kept out of sight?
- Are chargers and cables for laptops/iPads kept out of view?
- Have you created a written and photographic record of any items of value (financial or sentimental)?