



# BURGLARY

This leaflet has been posted to you to make you aware of a crime that has occurred close to where you live, to provide you with an opportunity to think about your own home security and raise your level of vigilance.

Most break-ins can be avoided by thinking about the security of your home and building security into your daily routine. Many of the burglaries reported to the police in Wirral in recent months have been via insecure doors and windows.

By taking a few simple precautions you can greatly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary:

Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar. Are there places where a burglar could break into your home without being seen? How would you get in if you had forgotten your keys? If you could get inside, so could a burglar.

Follow the advice on this letter to help secure your home.

## During the winter

- As the nights get darker earlier, leave a light on inside your home. Remember to choose low energy lamps.
- Use a timer switch to operate the lights as it starts to get dark. Change the times that the lights come on to simulate an occupied home.
- Make sure your front door is well lit. Use dusk to dawn lighting that automatically comes on as it gets dark.
- Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked at all times.

## Windows and doors security

- When you go out, always close and lock external doors and windows, even if you are just going out for a short time.
- Window locks can be seen from outside and could deter a burglar from forcing the window.
- If you have deadlocks, use them.
- If you have a flat roof extension the windows above it should always be locked.
- For further advice on improving your home security visit Secured by Design for more information at: <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>.
- Don't leave house or vehicle keys, wallets, purses etc. in view of letter boxes, doors or windows and pet-flaps.

## Keeping keys safe

- Ensure your keys are kept in a safe place out of sight and well away from your letterbox, windows and pet-flaps.
- Don't tag keys so they can be easily identified.
- Keep all spare keys in a safe place or with a relative.
- Don't leave spare house and vehicle keys outside or in a garage, shed or in your vehicle.
- If you have a keyless entry and start vehicle fob, please keep them in a metal container and as far away from your vehicle as possible.

## Living in a flat or shared housing

- Never buzz open the door for strangers, or hold open the door for someone you don't know.

## Security outside your home

- Never leave garages or sheds unlocked, especially if they connect to your property, consider locking items to each other or a fixed item within your garage or shed.
- Visible burglar alarms and carefully directed security lighting can deter burglars. Make sure alarms stop sounding after 20 minutes and lights don't disturb your neighbours.

## Going on holiday

- Cancel/Suspend any deliveries, such as milk and newspapers.
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property, make it look lived in, park on your drive etc.
- Try to make your home look occupied while you are not there. Use timer switches on lamps or your radio.
- Don't advertise you're away on Social Media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

## Mark & Register your property

- Consider using UV Markers or DNA property marking systems such as SelectaDNA. For more information [www.selectadna.co.uk/](http://www.selectadna.co.uk/)
- Create a FREE, PRIVATE & SECURE portfolio of all your personal property at: <https://www.immobilise.com/>. Immobilise helps Police identify the owners of recovered property thousands of times every day.
- Regularly review your Home insurance and ensure it's up to date.

## Be a good neighbour

- If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, call the police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999.
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on: 0800 555111.

## We can take non-emergency crime reports or enquires through Facebook and Twitter.

Please send a Direct Message to @MerPoICC on Twitter or to Merseyside Police CC on Facebook to contact us.

## Follow your Local Policing Team on Social Media

### Twitter

- Wallasey : Follow @MerPoWallasey West Wirral : Follow @MerPoWirralWst

### Facebook

- Follow Wirral Police

## To contact your Local Policing Team:

### E-mail

- [A.Community.Hub.1@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:A.Community.Hub.1@merseyside.pnn.police.uk)

### Call

- 101