

Crime Prevention Advice for Home Owners

Having your home broken into is something many people fear however it is not a common occurrence.

Criminals are often opportunists and may take advantage of poor security.

As a householder there are a few simple steps you can take when you are going out to reduce the likelihood of your home being broken into:

- Secure all house doors.
- Ensure all windows are secure.
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else an intruder may easily find them.
- Always ensure that your keys are well out of sight/reach of letterboxes and windows.
- Don't label your keys-if you need to identify keys, consider using a colour-code theme.
- Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same ring.
- Avoid keeping large amounts of cash in the house. If you must, then put it in different locations.
- Don't leave valuables in view of windows, particularly around the tree at Christmas time.
- Use a timer switch for use with a lamp and /or radio to give the impression that your home is occupied.
- Record details of your Valuables on the National Mobile Property Register at www.immobilise.com

Protect Outside Your Home

- External lighting can help deter intruders if the area lit is overlooked from either your own property or neighbouring properties.
- Secure shed/garage windows with grills or wire mesh, or make it difficult to look inside by using opaque film or curtains.
- Lock away tools and ladders as they could be used to access your home.
- Keep hedges low and any walls or fences at the front of your property no higher than four feet to make it harder for an intruder to avoid being seen.
- Lock away Valuable items in the shed when not in use and think about covering them with an old sheet or blanket.
- Keep bins in an area where they can't be used as a step to climb fences,walls or to access windows.
- If you have an intruder alarm,consider extending its coverage to include outbuildings and ensure it is visible.

Remember if you see any suspicious activity in your street you should report it to the Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. It does not matter if it turns out that there was a genuine reason for the activity. It is as the saying goes always better to be safe than sorry.

If you would like any more information regarding home security contact either your Community Officer at your local police station or the Community Safety Unit at Livingston Police Station on 101.

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