



Creating a safer  
Cambridgeshire

## Home Security Self Assessment

Most burglars are “opportunists” and will break into homes that are easy i.e with no security, look unoccupied or think they will not be seen. Good security and taking basic precautions will reduce the chance of your home being burgled.

Assess the security of your property by using the checklist below:

	Y/N	
<p><b>Outside Security</b> Are your boundary fences/walls/hedges in good condition? Are they high enough to prevent climbing?</p> <p>Do you have locks on side gate?</p> <p>Are trees/shrubs well trimmed?</p> <p>Do you have outside security lighting</p>		<p>Check for weak points or easy entry points</p> <p>Low boundaries at the front give good visibility from surrounding houses. High fences etc at back [1.8m] provide good security. Side entrances should be secured with strong lockable gates To prevent burglars hiding and being unobserved. Good lighting is essential to deter the burglar. Low level dusk to dawn lighting should be used which comes on during hours of darkness.</p>
<p><b>Sheds /Outbuildings/Garages</b> Do you have strong locks fitted?</p> <p>Are hinges exposed?</p> <p>Are windows secure and view obscured?</p> <p>Is your garage an integral one to the house?</p> <p>Do you lock tools and</p>		<p>Use substantial padlocks as expensive tools/equipment are stored.</p> <p>Ensure heavy duty hinges are fitted or fit hinge bolts. Windows should be secured by window locks.</p> <p>The door connecting your garage to your house must be treated the same as any external door. Always lock tools away as these could be used to break into your house. Secure with steel chain through a ground anchor. Lock ladders to a sturdy</p>

<p>ladders away?</p> <p><b>External Doors</b>  Front/final exit door – does it have a robust deadlock?</p> <p>Is the door frame in good condition?  Are the doors strong enough to resist forced entry?</p> <p>Back door – does it have a robust deadlock?  Is a security chain or door spy hole fitted?</p> <p>Patio doors – are they fitted with 2 locks, top and bottom?</p> <p>Are French windows fitted with robust locks?</p> <p><b>Windows</b>  Are windows /frames in good repair?</p> <p>Are locks fitted to all accessible windows?</p> <p>Are window restrictors fitted to windows which open more than 9”</p> <p><b>Internal Security</b>  Is your valuable property marked/registered?</p> <p>Do you have a safe?  Are valuable items away from windows?</p> <p>Do you have a burglar alarm?</p> <p>Do you use internal security</p>	<p>bracket on an outside wall.  If the door is at least 44mm thick a 5 lever mortice deadlock to British Standard 3621 should be fitted.  Otherwise a rim deadlock fitted. PVC-u doors should have a 3 multi-point lock.  The frame should be securely fixed otherwise good locks are useless.  Doors should be certificated to British Standard PAS 24./ LPS1175SR2/WCL1  Locks should be the same as the front door.</p> <p>For personal security always use chain and check IDs.</p> <p>Patio doors are vulnerable to attack, usually being at the rear of the property.  Ensure an “anti-lift” device is fitted.  These need 5 locking points – 4 mortice security bolts and one 5 lever mortice deadlock.</p> <p>Products are available to reinforce them.  New windows should conform to British Standard 7950.  There are locks to fit all window types.  Ensure all locks with keys are fitted correctly and in the right position.  [except fire escape route]</p> <p>Keep an inventory of all items of value.  Permanently mark property using a UV pen or other methods and register on <a href="http://www.Immobilise.com">www. Immobilise.com</a>.  Ensure safe is out of sight  Make sure valuables are not visible from outside.</p> <p>Always look for installers who are members of a recognised inspecting body and obtain at least 3 quotes..  Time switches are a good way to ensure the house is lit when unoccupied.</p> <p>Thieves can hook keys through</p>
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<p>lighting? Are house and car keys kept away from doors/windows?</p> <p>Are you a member off Neighbourhood Watch or Countryside Watch?</p>		<p>letterboxes.</p> <p>Schemes work together to help reduce crime and make their area safer.</p>
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If you require further crime prevention advice visit –

- [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/secureyourhome](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/secureyourhome)
- Or contact the Community Safety Unit on 0345 456 456 4.

The information and advice given is free of charge without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office nor the Police take any legal responsibilities for advice given. We can only give a view on what measures might reduce the risk of crime and there can be no guarantee that the measures will prevent crime.