

CRIME PREVENTION

House, Vehicle and Pedal Cycle Security Presentation

House Security

The best way to approach home security is to first examine your existing arrangements. Start from the boundaries and work your way to the centre. This is known as the “onion peeling principle”.

Although the layers differ for each household, generally they can be broken down into the following;

**BOUNDARY
OUTBUILDINGS
BUILDING
PROPERTY**

What opportunities do burglars look for?

- 1) High front boundary. This means that the burglar can be hidden from public view while he works to gain entry
- 2) Low side and rear boundaries. This means easy access.
- 3) Recessed insecure side gate (Gate hidden from view down the side of the building or garage.
- 4) Wheelie Bib in front of side gate. Burglars stand on them to get over fences or gain access to windows.
- 5) Insecure garage door.
- 6) Insecure shed door and window.
- 7) Paved driveway and path. Gravel drives make a noise when stood on, paved drives do not.
- 8) No intruder alarm systems. Bogus alarms do not work. Burglars recognise them.
- 9) No security lights
- 10) Insecure front door.
- 11) Open Insecure Windows.
- 12) Valuables on show.
- 13) No barking dog heard.

Garages and Shed Security

Ensure that the main garage door has a lock and that it is always locked...

Install a floor mounted T bar on up and over doors.

Always secure side or rear garage or shed doors, preferably with a hasp and staple with a closed shackle padlock. Always secure hinges with one way clutch head screws. Install diamond mesh grills over shed windows. Ensure all property is marked and secured, especially tools and ladders. Do not use barbed wire, carpet gripper or nails. These could cause serious injury, which the householder would be legally responsible for.

Consider spiky defensive planting against walls and fences, for instance climbing roses or pyrocantha. Garden Tools and ladders should be secured by wrapping a substantial chain around them and padlocking them to an eyebolt which has been secured to the floor or wall. This will prevent them being stolen or used to break into the house. The same applies to bicycles. You should not presume that they are safe behind a locked door. Sheds are often a long way from the main house. The sound of a shed break in can easily be missed.

Intruder alarms, patio doors and windows.

Three types of alarm

Monitored - which provides a police response via an alarm company.

Speech Dialer- which automatically calls pre-programmed numbers

Audible only- which relies on neighbours and passers by to react

DIY systems are not eligible for a police response.

An alarm company should be affiliated to an inspectorate body, i.e. NSI or SSAIB. Patio doors should have a minimum of three locking points plus an anti lift device to prevent the doors being lifted from their runners. Louvered windows should be secured or removed. All ground floor windows should have key operated window locks, unless they are being used as a fire escape.

Front and Back Doors

PVCu and aluminium doors should have multi-locking systems. Additional mortice deadlocks and/or key operated throw bolts can be fitted to provide additional security and reduce the leverage points. Internal letterbox shields can be fitted to prevent car or house keys being fished through the letterbox. Criminals make long "fishing hooks" fashioned from aluminium clothes hangers joined together. They then feed these through letterboxes and can reach your keys up to 8ft away from the door. Replace glass panels in doors with laminated glass or reinforced internally with security film or grilles.

Protecting Valuables

Consider installing a small safe fixed securely to a wall to secure valuable items.

Property Marking and/or photographing valuables will help deter burglars and help police return them to their rightful owners if they are stolen.

Timing switches linked to the lights and a radio will give the impression that a property is occupied,

Bicycle Security

Use a good quality bike lock. A good D lock is best.

Always lock through the frame. Never just lock through the wheel. Most wheels have quick release locks, so the bike is taken leaving the wheel. New wheels are considerably cheaper than bikes.

Always attach bikes to something immovable. Even wrought iron gates can be easily lifted off their bases. The gate is usually taken with the bike and thrown in the back of a van. Always get the bike marked indelibly, so it can be returned by police if it is recovered. Always lock the bike up in a public place, never in a quiet place where a potential thief could work on it undisturbed.

Vehicle Security

Always lock and immobilise your car, however short your stop is.

Always take your valuables with you. If this is not possible as a last resort put your valuables in a locked boot. The boot is safer than the glove compartment. If you remove your sat nav take it with you, rather than putting it in the glove compartment. Professional thieves can easily recognise the mountings, and know that it is probably in the glove compartment. Again if that's not possible, and only as a last resort, put it in the boot. Always park your vehicle in an area of good light



SOUTHFIELD WARD