

HOME SECURITY

You may find the following tips helpful in making your property more secure: -

- It's especially important to keep doors locked even when you're at home. Use a 5 lever mortice deadlock or, on UPVC units, fully engage the multi-locking system. **JUST PUSHING THE HANDLE UP TO ENGAGE THE BOLTS IS NOT SUFFICIENT. YOU MUST ALSO LOCK THE DOOR WITH THE KEY!** (Contact the CRO if you would like someone to call and show you).
- Fit a door bar or chain and use it every time someone calls.
- Fit a cage or deflector over the letterbox, on the inside, to prevent thieves from accessing the inside handles from the outside.
- Keep windows locked, especially when you are out.
- Remove door and window keys. Keep them out of sight in a safe place. **Know where to find them in case of a fire.**
- Sliding patio doors should have anti-lift devices and strong locks fitted to the top and bottom.
- Make sure that you have effective outside lighting. Security lights are a good deterrent.
- Make it look like you are at home when you are out. Don't leave curtains closed during the daytime. Use timer switches to operate lights, radios, etc. (but not in rooms where the open curtains will show that you are out).
- Install strong fences and gates. Thorny hedges can deter intruders, but make sure that the hedge is kept low so that burglars can't work without the chance of being seen.
- Garages and sheds should never be left unlocked. Avoid storing valuable items in them. Consider using a shed bar, or a garage 'defender lock'. Use secure anchor fittings for garden machinery, cycles, etc. Lockable steel boxes, anchored to the floor, are useful to store tools in. Fit a shed / garage alarm.
- Postcode valuables. Record details, including serial numbers. Photographs of items, in colour, can also be useful for identification purposes.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm. Get advice from your local Crime Reduction Officer.
- Consider joining or starting a local Neighbourhood Watch group.
- Keep your insurance up-to-date.
- If your house incorporates a bin cupboard, make sure that burglars can't get into your home through it.
- Don't forget to fit smoke alarms in your home. (and Carbon Dioxide alarms if you have gas)
- Please be aware that Safes must meet certain specifications and be fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Check with your Insurance Company. For further information and examples have a look at www.banham.co.uk or www.burtonsafes.co.uk – **(There are other providers).**
- Most Banks provide Safe Keeping services, which are normally subject to charges. Check with your Bank.

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- Safe Deposit Facilities, located in Vaults, are also available in some places (e.g. London). They are normally operated by specialist companies. Again, there are charges. You should fully investigate all the risks and Insurance implications before you chose this option.

(Always use materials that conform to British/European Standards)

If you see anything suspicious call police on 999 (***Emergency calls***) or 101. (***For non-urgent calls***).

If you want to know more about preventing burglary and other crimes visit www.essex.police.uk and click on Be Safe, or contact your local Crime Reduction Officer, as above.

Please note that Essex Police do not recommend any particular product or supplier.

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