

Home Security Assessment and Checklist

Is your home secure? Use this checklist to identify areas where action could be taken to improve the security of your home.

Exterior Security:

- Shrubs and bushes are pruned so that there is no place for an intruder to hide.
- Floodlights or a motion-sensitive lighting system are used to reduce dark areas around the house and grounds.
- My garden fence is in good condition and high enough to prevent persons climbing it.
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening, whether we are at home or away.
- Ladders, trellises and drainpipes giving access to upper floors of the house are secured.
 - Gates, garage and shed doors are locked after every use.
 - Ladders, lawn mowers, and other garden tools are stored in a locked garage or shed.
 - Bicycles are locked away in a secured shed or garage.
 - House number or name is clearly displayed, so emergency services can find my house.

External Doors:

- Outside doors are strong solid hardwood or metal and any glass panels in or around doors are reinforced. Door viewers or a door chain have been fitted to check on callers.
 - They are fitted with a quality mortice dead bolt lock into the frame of the door.
 - They are locked at all times, especially when going out, even if only for a few minutes.
 - Extra keys are kept with a trusted neighbour and not kept under a doormat or left outside.

Window Security:

- Every window has an efficient key lock or is securely pinned (except the fire exit window).
- Windows are always locked even when opened slightly for ventilation.
- Windows and frames are in good condition.
- I have considered using window bars or grills (for high-risk areas).

Garage Protection:

- All garage doors are always locked.
- The door connecting the garage to the house is solid and secured with a strong lock.
- All tools, ladders etc are locked away so they cannot be used to break into my home.
- The garage door is fitted with a strong security lock (preferably fixed into the floor).

Sliding Door Security:

- The sliding glass door has strong suitable key locks. A fastener has been fitted to prevent the door from being forced or lifted off its track.
- The sliding door is always locked especially whenever we are away from home.

General Security:

- My car is always locked and the key removed even when it is in the garage. Keys are stored out of sight.
- We have a security safe for the protection of all our valuables.
- An up to date inventory of all our valuable property is retained and a duplicate copy is kept in a secure place outside the home.
- Valuable items, such as TV and laptops have been security marked with our postcode.
- We have emergency telephone numbers listed by our telephone.

Security while on Holiday:

- When on holidays, we inform a trusted neighbour or relative and ask them to collect any deliveries, cut the grass and make our house look occupied.
- Light timers have been programmed to turn the lights on and off in a rational cycle, when we are away for a prolonged period.
- The alarm system (if fitted) is always activated when we leave home.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements made for a neighbour or friend to pick them up.
- Holiday details have not been posted on any social networking system, i.e. facebook