

Police Scotland report break-ins to homes continue to take place, with houses in your area being targeted. Due to the lack of security these break-ins were committed by opportunists.

A large number of these break-ins are easily preventable. Below are some simple crime prevention measures you can take to secure your property.

Around the Home

- Fence or hedge around your property is a good way to deter any opportunists.
- Make sure your home is still visible to passers-by so a burglar can't work unseen.
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home with locked gates
- Thieves don't like gravel, it's noisy to walk on.
- Dusk-to-dawn lighting can put off or draw attention to a thief.
- Keep sheds/garages securely locked and don't leave any gardening equipment/ladders etc lying about as a thief could use these to gain access to your home



Security

- Keep all doors and windows locked (window shock alarms can be purchased from your local Community Safety Team)
- Keep all valuables out of sight (mark, engrave or photograph what property you can)
- Use timer switches to give the appearance that you are home and don't leave curtains closed during the daytime
- Do not leave keys in the door or a spare under the doormat etc, thieves know where to look



Some burglars try to trick their way in so remember if you are not expecting anybody check their identity carefully by asking for an ID card. Close the door and check using the relevant bill or phone book, not the number on the card.

IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT!

When You're Away

- All windows, doors, sheds/garages, gates etc are locked and secured
- Cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries
- Cut the grass and do the gardening before you go
- Don't put your home address on luggage labels when travelling
- Ask a friend or a neighbour to look after your home while you are away. Ask them to pick up any post, draw your curtains at night and open them in the morning.
- Use timer switches/radio to make your house look lived in while you are away.



Property Marking

Mark what property you can. The marking should be obvious and achieved by engraving, etching or simply writing on your property. An ultraviolet pen can be used for more discreet marking but is less effective on property used outdoors. The usual mark is your house number and postcode. You can get a UV pen free from your local Police Officer or from the Community Safety Team.



If you would like any further information please contact your local **Crime Prevention Officer** on: **01382 591887** or for more information on safety equipment, contact the **Community Safety Team** on: **01382 436333**

**WANT IT SORTED?
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REPORTED**

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