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**Themes:** Advocacy, Public Sector Services

**Aimed at:** All People

Advice guide - Home security

Nottinghamshire police: advice and information of crime reduction including alarms, security devices, property markings.

Home security checklist

Most domestic burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves looking for the easiest way of getting into your home without being seen or disturbed.

Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar. Are there places where a burglar could break into your home without being seen? How would you get in if you had forgotten your keys? If you could get inside, so could a burglar.

Follow the advice on this page to help secure your home.

During the winter

As the nights get darker earlier, leave a light on inside your home. Remember to choose low energy lamps.

Use a timer switch to operate the lights as it starts to get dark. Change the times that the lights come on to simulate an occupied home.

Make sure your front door is well lit. Use dusk to dawn lighting that automatically comes on as it gets dark.

Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked at all times.

## Windows and doors security

When you go out, always close and lock external doors and windows, even if you are just going out for a short time.

Fit a five lever mortice lock (British Standard 3621) to all exterior wooden doors. If you are having new windows or doors installed, ensure they are certified to PAS 24:2016 standard for Enhanced security performance requirements for doorsets and windows in the UK.

UPVC or composite doors have multipoint-locking systems, but it is strongly recommended they are fitted with an anti-snap lock cylinder (TS007) of 3\* standard as a minimum

Window locks can be seen from outside and could deter a burglar from forcing the window

If you have deadlocks, use them. They make it more difficult for a thief to get out again. But don't leave the key near the door or in an obvious place nearby

If you have a flat roof extension the windows above it should always be locked

## Keeping keys safe

Ensure your keys are kept in a safe place out of sight and well away from your letterbox

Don't tag keys so they can be easily identified

Keep all spare keys in a safe place

Don't leave spare keys outside or in a garage or shed

Consider buying a safe for personal papers, passports and small items of jewellery. This must be secured to the floor or a wall

## Security outside your home

Never leave garages or sheds unlocked, especially if they connect to your property

Visible burglar alarms and carefully directed security lighting can deter burglars.

Make sure alarms stop sounding after 20 minutes and lights don't disturb your neighbours

## Living in a flat or shared housing

Consider having a phone entry system fitted to the main door of your building

Never buzz open the door for strangers, or hold open the door for someone you

don't know

Get home contents insurance

Going on holiday

Suspend any deliveries, such as milk and newspapers

Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property

Try to make your home look occupied while you are not there Use timer switches on lamps or your radio

Marking your property

Below are some examples of how you can mark or register your property to ensure it is returned to you if it is ever stolen.

Ultraviolet or invisible marking

It can only be seen by an ultraviolet lamp, although it does fade over time and can be washed off eventually.

Permanent marking

Suitable for hard surfaces by engraving or etching.

Tracking for laptops and smartphones

These can now be traced if stolen by using online tracking software, which is usually free. Search online and register your laptop or phone.

Know your IMEI number.

Intruder alarms

If you don't have an intruder alarm installed, we would suggest that you consider having one installed. Intruder alarms may prevent intruders from breaking into your home as a visible deterrent. Alternatively, if an intruder does attempt to break into your home the alarm activating may scare them off.

If you are considering buying a new intruder alarm, it's a good idea to obtain at least three quotes from industry approved installers (NSI or SSAIB) or talk to your

insurer who may have some recommendations.

You can also use the Trading Standards website Checkatrade website to check for vetted suppliers in your area.

There are three types of Intruder Alarm available:

Monitored alarm - If the system is breached, a monitoring station informs the key holders and Police within minutes.

Audible only alarm - If activated, an alarm sound will alert your neighbours.

Auto-dialling alarm - If the alarm is activated, the sound will alert your neighbours and the system will dial a series of telephone numbers.

## Be a good neighbour

If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, call the police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999.

Get more advice on preventing many crimes on our crime prevention guides page.

## Speak to our Crime Prevention team

To speak to our Crime Prevention Unit about protecting your property and reducing your chances of becoming a victim of crime, email [Nphub@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nphub@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Emergency SMS service for the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired:

The emergency SMS service allows deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired people in the UK to send an SMS text message to the UK 999 service, where it will be passed to the police, ambulance, fire and rescue, or coastguard.

### How it works

Simply by sending an SMS message to 999, you can call for help and the emergency services will be able to reply to you.

A relay assistant will speak your SMS message to the 999 advisor, their reply will be sent back to you as an SMS message.

If you send another SMS text message, the relay assistant will read it to the 999 advisor and send their reply back to you.

How to register

You MUST register your mobile phone before using the emergency SMS service.

Step 1:

Text 'register' to 999

Step 2:

You will receive a reply explaining the service. Please read through this.

Step 3:

Text back 'Yes'

Step 4:

You will receive a text confirming your registration for the service.

You can find out more information about Emergency SMS on the Emergency SMS website.

**Area:** Bassetlaw

## **Contact Details**

999 - Emergencies

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/document/advice-home>

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