PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HOME AND YOUR BELONGINGS

We can all do our bit to protect ourselves and our homes from many different threats.

We have put together some tips to try to minimise the chances of these problems occurring.
Remember to take care of yourselves as well as your home

Here are a few extra tips to help make you extra secure

1. CLOSE AND LOCK DOORS

Close and lock doors when you go out. Don’t leave doors and windows open when you are upstairs.
Always check who is at the door before you open it and don’t open it if you feel anxious.
Door chains and restrictors are sensible to check if you want to open the door.

2. PROTECT YOUR BELONGINGS

Mark or etch your postcode or an identifying code on your belongings. Take photographs of your valuables.
Keep receipts and instruction books to show you own the items and make a note of any serial numbers.

3. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHERS

As a home owner or occupier, you have a responsibility to the public and must not, when seeking to protect your home, put them at risk of injury. Be reasonable at all times when seeking to protect your property.

4. TAKE CARE

Do not leave car keys and valuables on view or near windows, letterboxes or doors.
Leave lights on if you are getting back after dark.
Cancel milk and deliveries if you are going away for days at a time.
Don’t let strangers into your home without identification.
If you are going away leave a key with a trusted neighbour.
Having your home broken into and your belongings ransacked can be very disturbing; we have outlined a few simple steps to help secure your home.

1. YOUR WINDOWS

Fit locks on accessible windows such as those located on the ground floor or next to drainpipes or flat roofs.

When installing or replacing windows consider using laminated glass (BS 7950), as this is stronger. Until late 2012 the security of domestic windows was mainly assessed in accordance with BS 7950. This has since been incorporated into PAS 24:2012: Enhanced security performance requirements for doorsets and windows in the UK. Further information on these standards can be obtained from the BSI (British Standards Institution).

2. OUTSIDE AREAS

Thorny hedges may look good but make sure that they do not completely obscure the view of your property so that passers-by can witness break-ins.

Keep ladders, tools etc in sheds or garages which should be kept securely locked. Security lights and alarms will also help deter burglars.

3. YOUR MAIN DOOR

The main door to your property should be solid or reinforced and of at least 45mm thickness. It should have a five-lever mortise deadlock, and a 3 point locking system to BS 3621 standard.

Hinges should be sturdy and strong. Horizontal bolts also help secure the door.

4. YOUR OTHER DOORS

French patio doors must be secured with multiple locking points, ideally three. All frames must be secured and laminated glass is recommended.

For further information on how to protect your home or other useful tips, check our website:

www.nfrnmutual.com
Leaving your home

Before leaving your home remember to set all your security devices, close and lock windows and doors and remove keys from locks and put them away from view.

Different types of doors and windows

Patio Door and French Doors, unless fitted with a BS3621 standard multi-locking system, should have two key operated locks positioned at the top and bottom of each door in support of the main deadlock.

UPVC and aluminium doors should have a BS3621 standard multi-point locking system.

The 5 lever lock is a type of tumbler often required for home insurance and often recommended by the police for home security. BS3621 is the standard required for insurance purposes, these locks have the ability to be dead locked and the key taken away from both sides so no one can gain access or exit the door without a key.

Alarms and Lighting

The biggest reason a home owner should consider installing a home security system is that it offers protection to family members from intruders.

There are many different alarms to choose from, but you do need to switch them on when you lock up. It may sound obvious, but people do forget to activate their alarms.

Security Lights fitted front and back of your property can be a useful deterrent and provide assistance when you return after dark. Timer switches can also be used to create the impression that someone is at home.

Remember it is often little things that cause damage gradually over a period of time. These can be avoided if you keep a look out for small areas of damage and leaks.

- Clearing gutters and fixing gutters can prevent water seeping into the brick work and causing expensive damage.
- Service your boiler annually and try switching it on before the cold weather sets in.
- Check external paintwork for any damage, chips or flaking and repair as necessary to avoid water getting into woodwork.
- Check your roof for loose, broken or missing tiles and repair or replace as soon as possible.
- Check pipes and radiator for leaks and make necessary repairs.
- Check the tiles, grouting and sealant around baths, sinks and showers and replace if needs be (remember that any damage caused by missing or failed tiles, grouting or sealant is not protected).
- If you discover damp or mould check out the cause and make necessary repairs.
- If water is coming out of overflow pipes check and repair ballcocks in tanks or cisterns.

More information about protecting your home and belongings can be found on the following government websites:

http://content.met.police.uk/Site/crimepreventionbumblebee
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood
www.crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/home-and-property