

BURGLARY



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. Good window locks and strong deadlocks can make a big difference. Taking just a few steps can make a big difference in keeping your home safe from burglary. Here are a few tips:

- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even when you're just out in the garden, remembering to double-lock UPVC doors (lift handle and turn key)
- Hide all keys, including car keys, out of sight and away from the letterbox (remember a device could be used to hook keys through the letterbox)
- Install a visual burglar alarm (as part of a suite of prevention measures - a burglar alarm on its own will not prevent entry to your home)
- Install good outside lighting
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property
- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied
- Make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition
- Secure bikes at home by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage
- Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home
- Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property
- Ensure rear fencing is in good repair

- Improve natural surveillance at the front of your property i.e. trim high hedges
- Mark your property with postcode and house number and register your property for free with [Immobilise](#) (details available from your local Police)
- Consider joining or forming a [Neighbourhood Watch scheme](#)
- Remove valuables from view of ground floor windows and store any high value items (i.e. jewellery, passports) in a properly secured safe or bank vault

Doors and windows

In most burglaries, the criminals break into the house or flat through the door, either by forcing the lock or kicking it in. So, make sure your doors are strong and secure. Consider fitting a bar for extra strength; a locksmith can advise you on how best to do it.

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Glass panels on doors are particularly vulnerable. If you have one on your door you could replace it with laminated glass, which is stronger. You can also buy a film in a DIY store that you can stick over the glass to make it harder to break.

Home security and DIY shops sell inexpensive, key-operated locks to fit most kinds of windows. Fit window locks with keys to all downstairs windows and those upstairs that are easy to reach.

For professional advice consider contacting a local Locksmith.



There are many reputable businesses around, but the best way to select a reliable one is to:

Ask friends and family for recommendations where possible.

Check that all quotes are provided in writing and whether you are given a quote or an estimate. A quote is a fixed price for the job and should not change, whereas an estimate can vary by a reasonable amount.

Check that the quote includes an inclusive price and details all work that you have requested.

Check that you have adequate contact details for the trader including an address and landline phone number.

(JD Locksmiths **are** a local business that can give you advice; however, this site cannot give recommendations on companies to use)