

Home security checklist

Most burglars are 'opportunists' and break into homes that are easy targets. Good security and basic precautions reduces the chance of your home being burgled.

Below is a checklist of the most common entry points used by criminals. By reviewing the security in and around your home it will help you identify areas where additional burglary prevention may be required.

Perimeter security

Are boundary fences/walls/hedges in good condition?	Y/N	Check for weak points or easy entry points.
Are the front boundaries no more than 1m and the rear 1.8m high?		Low front boundaries give good visibility from surrounding houses, whilst high fences at the back provide good security.
Do you have locked side gates at all access points?		Secure side entrances with strong lockable gates to minimise ease of entry.
Are trees and shrubs well trimmed?		This helps to prevent burglars being able to hide and be unobserved.

External lighting

Is there outside security lighting, including covering the front of the property?	Y/N	Good lighting is essential for deterring burglars. Use low level dusk to dawn lighting which comes on during darkness.
Is the side and rear external lighting motion activated?		Motion activated lighting should be positioned out of arms reach so it can't easily be tampered with.

External doors

Do all external doors, including front and back, have robust deadlocks?	Y/N	British Standard 3621 or PVC-u 3 multi-point locks or similar should be fitted.
Are the door frames in good condition and strong enough to resist forced entry?		Frames should be securely fixed and doors should be certified to British Standard PAS 24/ LPS1175SR2/WCLI.
Is a security chain or door spy hole fitted?		Always use a chain and check the identity of unknown visitors.
Are patio doors fitted with robust locks?		Ensure an anti-lift device with 5 locking points is fitted.

Garages, sheds and outbuildings

Are strong locks fitted to all entrances?	Y/N	Use substantial padlocks to secure stored expensive tools and equipment.
Are the door hinges exposed or heavy duty?		Use heavy duty hinges or hinge bolts to make it more difficult to enter.
Are all windows secure and have an obscured view of inside?		Obscuring the view stops burglars from seeing any expensive equipment inside.
Do connecting doors between your garage and home have robust locks?		Any door connected to your home must be treated as any other external door is.
Are your tools and equipment locked away?		Tools can be used to break into your home so secure them with a steel chain through a ground anchor and lock ladders to a wall mounted bracket.

Windows

Are windows and frames in good repair?	Y/N	Frames should be securely fixed and new windows should conform to British Standard 7950.
Are locks fitted to all accessible windows?		Locks can be fitted to all window types, ensure they are fitted correctly.
If windows open more than 9" are window restrictors fitted?		This is particularly important for ground floor windows.

Internal security

Do you have a burglar alarm installed?	Y/N	Any installed alarm should meet BS4737 (professional) or BS6707 (DIY).
Do you have contents insurance?		It should be sufficient for the total contents value, any specific high value items and areas, such as tools in shed.
Is your valuable property marked and registered?		Keep an inventory of all valuable items and permanently mark them, such as with a UV pen. Also register items on www.immobilise.com