



## BURGLARY DWELLING

It always pays to review your home security regularly. Apart from reducing the risk of crime, many insurance companies offer a discount to houses with alarms and good-quality locks. Being a member of a 'Watch' group can also help.

### External doors and windows

- Locks are only effective if the door or window is in good condition. Also, ensure the frame is firmly fixed to the wall.
- Mortice locks are the best type of lock for an external wooden door. Choose a 5-lever mortice lock that conforms to BS3621 or EN12209. The door should be a minimum of 44mm thick to accommodate the lock. Speak to a qualified locksmith for further advice.
- If you have a composite door with a multi-point locking mechanism, check it conforms to PAS24. Always lift the



handle and turn the key to ensure the door is properly locked.

- Patio doors can be protected by fitting purpose-made locks or a security bar.
- French windows can be made more secure by fitting additional bolts that go into the top and bottom of the frame, so that they are attached to the house and not just to each other.

- Locking window handles can be retro-fitted to most double glazed units – they must comply with BS7950.
- Double glazing should comply with BS7950 (security performance) and BS7412 (window performance).

### Burglar alarms and domestic CCTV

- There are many types of alarm and CCTV systems, from wired and monitored systems at the top of the range down to battery-operated wire-free units. Consider which is the most suitable for your needs, the property you wish to protect and your budget.
- Please bear in mind that, although wire-free systems are an effective deterrent, most insurance companies do not recognise these systems so will not acknowledge them on your policy specification.
- To find a reputable alarm and CCTV fitter, contact your local Trading Standards Office and ask about their 'Approved Trader Scheme'. Alternatively, you can search for a fitter on the National Security Inspectorate website: [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)

- Don't rely on a dog to protect your house. They may act as a deterrent but they should not stop you from investing in a burglar alarm. There are pet-friendly systems on the market.
- Consider fitting a system that allows you to set the alarm for particular zones in your home overnight.
- Ensure that the alarm conforms to either BS4737 (for systems fitted before 2005) or PD6662 (systems fitted from 2005).
- CCTV systems should conform to BS8418.

### Safes

- Don't buy a cheap safe. The rule of thumb is to calculate the value of the contents and buy a safe with the nearest cash rating. At the very least, look for one with a minimum of a £2,000 cash rating and Secured By Design accreditation.

### House and car keys

- Don't leave your various house keys on display and avoid labelling them with the door they fit.
- Ensure your external doors and windows are locked when you leave the house and overnight.
- Close, but do not lock, internal doors as a fire safety measure.
- Ensure you have a set of house keys by your bedside so that you can leave the house quickly at night in an emergency.
- Avoid leaving car keys visible and near the front door – some car thefts are committed by 'fishing' the keys out through the letterbox.

### Property marking

- Property marking cannot prevent your goods from being stolen but is a very good deterrent as it is difficult to sell on items that have been marked. It also allows police to return recovered items to their rightful owner and can help to build a prosecution.
- There are many marking methods on the market – the simplest to use is a UV pen.
- Don't forget to open a free account with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com), the national online asset register. Immobilise aids the police with their investigations and helps to disrupt the second-hand market.

Further advice on British Standards can be found at: [securedbydesign.com](http://securedbydesign.com)