

Other useful home security tips:

- Keep keys and valuables out of sight, away from doors and windows.
- Watch out for bogus callers and always ask for identification if an unexpected caller comes to your home. If you are unsure, don't let them in and report it to the police straight away.
- Lock sheds and garages and put away tools and equipment after use.
- Security mark valuable items using a UV pen or forensic solution.
- For more crime prevention advice and security standards for a wide range of applications and products, visit www.securedbydesign.com

Join Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are groups of volunteers who work in partnership with the police and the local council.

They distribute advice on security and safety within a designated area and help to make sure that elderly or vulnerable members of the community aren't targets for criminals.

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch in Kent and Medway, or to join your local scheme, call **01622 654143** or visit:

- www.kcnwa.org
- www.kent.police.uk/neighbourhoodwatch

Contact Kent Police

If a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**

For all non-urgent crime reports or enquiries, call **01622 690690**

If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**

For news, advice and details of your neighbourhood officer, visit the Kent Police website - www.kent.police.uk

Home security checklist

Take steps to improve the security of your property



A guide to home security plus tips to reduce opportunities for unwanted visitors



**Kent
Police**



How to check the security of your home

This checklist will help you check how secure your home is, and gives useful advice on ways to reduce opportunities for thieves.

For more home security advice visit www.securedbydesign.com or contact your local crime reduction officer on **01622 690690**.

Check the front of your property

Is your front door...

If 'no', consider that:

Visible from the footpath at the front of your home?	Yes/No	It may deter thieves if visitors at your front door can be seen by neighbours or passers by
Fitted with a rim latch and mortice deadlock that complies with British Standards Institution (BSI) requirements (see www.bsigroup.com)	Yes/No	This is the best type of security for your home; British Standard locks have been security tested and are the basic standard you should have on a main door
Fitted with a spy hole?	Yes/No	Spy holes allow you to view a visitor before opening the door
Fitted with a door chain?	Yes/No	Door chains enable you to open your door and check ID without giving visitors access

Check your windows and patio doors

Are your windows...

If 'no', consider that:

Fitted with locks?	Yes/No	Window locks restrict access to your property
Fully closed and locked when your property is unoccupied?	Yes/No	Windows should be fully closed and locked with keys to keep thieves out
Fully closed and locked when you go to bed or are in your garden?	Yes/No	Keeping your windows on the latch does not mean they are secure

Are your patio doors...

If 'no', consider that:

Fitted with anti-lift devices on sliding doors, and additional locks?	Yes/No	These measures can reduce the risk of your patio doors being levered and lifted out
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Check the rear of your property

Burglars often enter properties from the rear, where they are less likely to be spotted by other people.

Is your back door...

If 'no', consider that:

Fitted with a five-lever mortice sash lock that complies with British Standards Institution (BSI) requirements (see www.bsigroup.com)	Yes/No	British Standard locks have been security tested and are the basic standard you should have on a main door
Fitted with a pair of stout bolts at the top and the bottom?	Yes/No	Bolts will enhance your home security and protect your door from being levered open

To the rear, do you have...

If 'no', consider that:

A lockable gate?	Yes/No	Gates locked from inside will restrict entry to your garden
A solid fence or hedge enclosing your garden?	Yes/No	Secure boundaries can prevent access from unwanted visitors
Trellis work or thorny plants along your garden boundaries?	Yes/No	Obstacles that prevent climbing are useful, particularly if you border alleyways or open fields

Home security measures

Do you have...

If 'no', consider that:

Security lights fitted to the front or rear of the property?	Yes/No	Lights can deter thieves and ensure entry points to your home are visible in the dark
Motion sensors to switch lights on automatically?	Yes/No	Lights turning on will alert you to movement outside
A burglar alarm fitted?	Yes/No	Alarms may deter thieves and can alert you, and others, if there are intruders about
Smoke detectors fitted on each floor of your home?	Yes/No	Smoke alarms can save your life – make sure you test them weekly and change batteries yearly or when needed