

## DOMESTIC BURGLARY

(Anytime)

### Key messages/top tips

- Always lock your doors and accessible windows, even when just popping to the shops or when you are in the back garden
- Fit deadlocks to all outside doors – burglars hate them because you need a key to open them from the inside as well as the outside. Do make sure you have got your home fire safety routes and procedures mapped out and that all keys are kept in an accessible place known to all members of the family/household.
- Put key operated locks on all downstairs or accessible windows – burglars don't like having to smash windows because of the noise and the danger of cutting themselves. When you're replacing windows, fit laminated glass or double glazing – they are much harder to break
- Try to make sure your TV and other valuables can't be seen from your window. Also don't leave empty boxes of new purchases outside for burglars to see
- Use a timer switch to turn lights and radios on when you are out or away to give the impression that your house is occupied (as little as £2 each from DIY shops). If you are away for a number of days ask a neighbour to check on your property and create the feel of the house being occupied – collecting mail, drawing curtains and parking their car in your drive are three ideas
- Fit “dusk to dawn” lighting outside your property
- Lock up goods in your garden – including ladders, tools and bikes – these are at risk from being stolen but also can be used to aid a burglary
- Fit spy holes and chains on front doors
- Install a visible burglar alarm – and turn it on. If it has “zones”, turn on the alarm for downstairs while you are upstairs asleep
- Restrict access to your back garden by a good fence and lockable gate
- Help the police catch burglars: note down serial numbers of all electrical goods; mark all your property with a permanent marker pen; photograph jewellery and other personal items' and **never** buy property if you think it might be stolen.