

**Myth: You are most likely to be burgled in the middle of the night**

Fact: Most houses are burgled when they are unoccupied. Therefore, most burglaries occur in the afternoon, whilst houses are unoccupied, rarely in the dead of night when people are in.

**Myth: There is no point in having a burglar alarm it just advertises the fact that you have property worth stealing.**

Fact: Putting a burglar alarm on your house is an effective deterrent not an advertisement that you have something worth stealing. Almost every house has something worth stealing nowadays.

**Myth: If they want to get in you cannot stop them.**

Fact: Yes you can. If you make it difficult enough or you can slow them down, they may be deterred and move on to an easier target.

**Myth: A dog left in the house is no deterrent to an experienced burglar, who will probably have some dog food/dog biscuits in his bag to distract the dog.**

Fact: A dog is a very good deterrent. Burglars do not like noise. The noisier the dog, the greater the deterrent, and they have no idea how aggressive the dog is by its bark. Many small dogs would stop a burglar

**Myth: Criminals/burglars are likely to have been watching your houses for a whole in order to establish your daily pattern They then know the best time to break in.**

Fact: Most criminal activity is opportunist in nature. Nearly opportunists commit 90% of thefts and burglaries. These are habitual criminals who regularly steal but they rarely have a particular house in mind when they set off. They tour round residential areas looking for an easy target i.e. an unoccupied house without a burglar alarm and no/poor door and window security. That is there opportunity to burgle.

**Myth: Once at home your car is safe.**

Fact: Your motorcar is more likely to be stolen from your driveway at home than it would be parked in a car park or in the street. We are not as serious about car security once we get home.

**Myth: Rape, robbery and murder that we often read about in the national Newspapers, rarely happen hear.**

Fact: These stories are usually sensationalised to help increase sales. The best barometer of what is happening locally is your local newspaper. You are more at risk of these crimes from someone you know or your family, than from a random stranger.

**Myth: Everyone is more vulnerable to attack from street robbers.**

Fact: The person most at risk from street robbery or being attacked on the footpath is a young male between the age's of 18 and 28, not his granny, mother or his aunt.

**Myth: Beware of groups of noisy teenagers. They are likely to frighten and threaten you.**

Fact: Groups of noisy, boisterous teenagers are not a threat generally. They keep together in gangs or groups because they are often afraid of being attacked. The fact that they shout, probably swear and use obscene language does not make them criminals. Being selfish and noisy is part of being a teenager.