

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY (Summer)

However much you like your home, there is nothing like a change of surroundings but you want to come back and find everything as you left it. The following check list will help you keep your home secure. Read it now so you can plan ahead, then tick off the items just before you go.

- Post code valuable items using a security marker
- Cut the lawn before you go
- Do not lock internal doors or desks – they may be forced if someone breaks in and could cause even greater damage
- Cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers, mail etc. Do it discreetly – don't announce your departure to a shop full of people. Only tell people who need to know you are going away
- Make sure your home looks occupied. Closed curtains in the daytime make it look like no-one is at home. Consider buying automatic timers to switch lights and a radio on and off in downstairs rooms
- Don't leave valuable items like TVs, videos or hi-fi equipment visible through windows
- Lock the garage and shed with proper security locks and put your tools away so they can't be used to break into your house. If you have to leave a ladder out, put it on its side and lock it to a secure fixture with a "close shackle" padlock and a heavy chain.
- If you are going abroad, don't show your home address on your luggage for the homeward journey until you are due to return home
- Lock all outside doors and windows.
- If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set and you have told the police who the keyholder is
- Just before you set off, allow a couple of minutes on the doorstep to check you have done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you.