



Altogether Better Policing

INEXPENSIVE SECURITY DEVICES FOR YOUR HOME



General Recommendations & Advice



Environment

The environment around the property may have an influence on the risk of your property being a target.

- Are any streetlights out?
- Are there any overgrown bushes around?

Perimeter/boundary

- Low boundaries at the front to a height of 1 metre provide maximum visibility. High walls or fences of 1.8 metres at the rear provide good security but should not exceed 2 meters as planning permission will be required in most cases.
- To maintain this private secured area, side entrances should be secured with lockable gates which should also be secured with two robust surface mounted bolts placed at the top and bottom of the gate.
- If possible, gates should be fixed with the hinges attached to the shell of the building. Their height should match that of the rear fence so that any burglar attempting to climb or force the gate will be seen from the road or nearby houses. Make sure the hinges are secure and that the gate cannot simply be lifted off them.

Void areas - these may contain gardens, a shed, garage, outbuildings, carpark, etc.

The first target for many criminals is the garden shed, the garage or outbuildings. This is because these buildings are usually not as securely built as the property; they are often located where opportunities to be seen are limited; and they often contain unsecured tools or items that can be used to break into the shell of the property.

We advise you to:

- Secure sheds and any outbuildings- Hinges should be protected using non-returnable screws or coach bolts
- Secure tools and garden implement with locks,
- Prominently and permanently mark property with your postcode.
- Do not to leave car keys in the garage with the car!
- Fit window locks or an internal grill (whichever is appropriate) over any shed window to protect this area.
- If any garage has an internal door that is used for entry from the garage into the house, then this internal door should have the same security standards as any other external door leading into the home.



Shell

The shell of a property is the external fabric of the building - so walls, roof, external doors and windows. If these points have little or no security, the criminal can easily access the interior and is then out of sight.

Any lock fitted to the door is only as good as the screws and the framework holding it on. A kick may be sufficient force to break the locking system. If the door is not thick enough to have a mortice deadlock, the night latch should be changed to a British Standard BS3621 rim automatic deadlock. These are much stronger than the rim night latch and have a deadlocking facility to prevent opening from the outside by breaking the glass and releasing the catch.

Many forced entries involve breaking the glass to make further entry. Fitting laminated glass or window film to a minimum BSEN 356:2000 class P1A standard to vulnerable windows makes it difficult to break. Remember that toughened glass is for safety which should not be confused with security.

Other items that can be used/ installed:

- Door viewers
- Door chains or bars.
- Letterbox cages/hoods are also useful for preventing interference to locks, 'fishing',

Interior

Most houses will have property inside which is attractive to the criminal such as cash, portable electronic devices, jewellery, etc. Keys can also be a risk target. Many of these items can be hidden from view so it will take the criminal time to find them.

We encourage you to:

- Do not keep car keys or house keys near the letter box
- Do prepare an inventory of all items of value - this is usually required for insurance purposes and it should include descriptions of items and their value, and can also assist if any items are stolen.
- Do take colour photographs of items and use a ruler to give an indication of size. Images of property are invaluable for police purposes in circulating stolen property descriptions.
- Items of property should be property marked with the postcode and house number. One cheap but effective method is the use of an ultra-violet (UV) pen.
- Large amounts of cash and expensive jewellery should not be kept in the house unless adequately protected. The occupier's insurance company should be consulted about these items and their protection.
- Inside the home, light sensitive switches, time switches or programmed switches are good methods of ensuring the house is lit and appears occupied at different times.

Remember - most criminals are unwilling to spend more than 15 minutes attempting to break into a property.

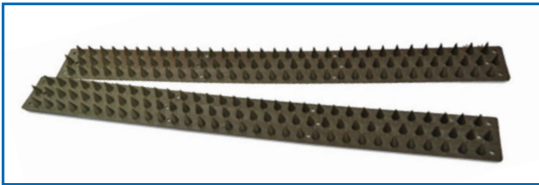


Boundary Security

Prikka Strip - Appx £8

for a box of 8. Good defensive topping for any type of material. If used to deter animals fix it to the top of the fence. If it is to deter persons, fix it to where they must put their hands to climb up. If just fitted on top of the fence or wall persons can use a thick item of clothing to bypass the spikes.

There are several types to choose from.



Defensive planting

This can be used to stop people climbing on or over a wall or fence, or to 'fill a gap' in hedges and the like. There are many different types of plants that are suitable. Most are spiky plants and are uncomfortable to the touch.

Lighting

There are many good solar / battery powered lights available now, so nearly any area can have some lighting attached to it.



Example of
solar dusk to dawn light.
appx £10



Example of
solar security light.
appx £40



Example of
battery security light.
appx £30

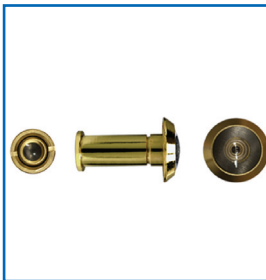


Door Security

Most properties have external doors now that contain the 'Euro Profile lock'. It is advisable to fit locks that have a three-star rating. This helps protect the lock from being drilled, snapped, 'picked', or 'bumped' TS 007:2014 3 star or SS 312 diamond standard are the standards you should try to aim for.



Door Lock
Appx £35-£45



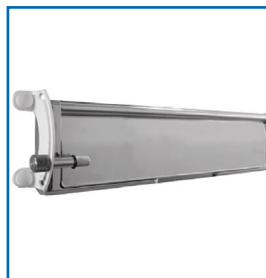
Door Viewer
An easy to fit product that lets you see who is at your solid external door.
Appx £4



Door Chime / Alarm
Easy to fit with no drilling or screwing battery-operated alarm that alerts you when the door is opened.
Appx £3



Door Chain
Good quality door chains let you see who is at the door before you decide whether to allow them to enter or not. The chain prevents someone from just barging their way in to the property. Where possible fit a chain that complies to DHF TS 003:2012 standards.
Appx £7



Locking Letter Plate
Used where there is a risk of arson, or simply because the pet dog attacks the mail as it is delivered. A locking letter plate (used in conjunction with an external post box) reduces the risk.
Appx £20-£45



External post box
Used in conjunction with the locking letter plate. Creates a safe place to receive your mail while the letter plate is locked.
Appx £26





Patlock

The Patlock is a great way of securing French / Patio doors. Even if the locks are snapped off the doors, the Patlock prevents anyone being able to open the doors from the outside.

Appx £47

Window Security

Windows should be in good working order. The ground floor windows should have restrictors fitted so they cannot be simply pulled open fully and climbed into, and they should also have a working locking mechanism.



Restrictor

If there is no restrictor fitted, after market ones are readily available. They fit most types of window frame. Always check that the restrictor you buy is suitable for the type of window frame you are fitting it to.

Appx £7



Sash Jammer

If your window has a poor or defective lock, then a sash jammer can be fitted to ensure it cannot simply be opened from outside.

Appx £4



Window shock alarm

for use on opening windows that are not fitted with restrictors. The shock alarm is activated by vibration, so someone opening a window from outside would activate the alarm. The alarm also has a warning notice fitted to it that can be seen from the exterior of the property, alerting people to the fact the alarm is fitted.

Appx £7



Internal Security

Various products to help keep you and your valuables safe.



24HR segment timer

Use with a lamp or fake TV to programme them to come on at various times during the hours of darkness while the property is vacant (even for a short period).

Appx £6



Fake TV

When a fake tv is on in any room with a window to the outside, it looks like someone is in the property watching TV. Especially useful for when the property is vacant due to holidays and the like.

Appx £15



LED bulbs

When using LED bulbs they are reliable and very energy efficient. They are good bulbs to be left on while out the house as they use up to 90% less energy than other bulbs.

Appx £3



Dummy Safes

Great for hiding car keys and the like while the property is vacant. Not for storing items of significant value. For advice on recommended safes for valuables consult your insurance company who will advise on their requirements.

Appx £7-£15

Durham Constabulary does not endorse any products. All research into the product is the responsibility of the individual concerned. However were possible products used should be endorsed by Secured by Design <https://www.securedbydesign.com/> or sold secure <https://www.soldsecure.com/> All their products are tested and when passed are approved by every Police force in England and Wales and insurance companies alike.

If you need to contact the Crime Prevention Department please use crimepreventionofficers@durham.police.uk we will respond as soon as we can to your query.





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