

SECURITY ADVICE

As the nights become lighter we begin to enjoy the outdoors more and think about days away and holidays. This is the ideal time to have a spring clean of your security.

Here are a few things to consider –

Do you keep your keys in sight of a window?

If you have an alarm and do you use it every time you go out?

Are your valuables easily accessible?

Have you taken photos of valuable items (e.g. jewellery) and saved to the cloud or a hard drive?

The following tips could help prevent your house from becoming a statistic:

- If going away on holiday try and make the house look occupied – neighbours using drive ways, bins being taken in/out and lights on timers.
- Ensure your locks are tested to British Standard or meets the needs of your insurance company.
- Keep doors and windows locked, especially if out of view.
- Keep car keys secure and hidden at all times. If on holiday, take the keys with you.
- If you are out whilst it is dark, consider fitting light timers or leaving a light on.
- Fit and use outside security lights, preferably dusk to dawn – these come on automatically when it is dark.
- Window locks should be fitted where appropriate and used all the time. Do not leave the key in the lock.
- Mark all the electrical equipment with an ultraviolet marker pen or register at www.immobilise.com
- At the front of the house hedges or trees should be trimmed or cropped so as not to provide cover for thieves.
- Laptop computers and mobile phones are favourite housebreaking targets. These should be locked away or removed from view. Add tracking software to smart phones, laptops and Ipads to aid in the recovery of these items
- Consider investing in a safe or strong box for storage of cash and valuables. A safe should be securely fixed to the fabric of the building and should only be used for short-term storage of cash.
- Consider installing an intruder alarm system. More information can be found on alarm systems and monitoring at www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssaib.org
- Secure your shed and all tools that may be used to force entry to your home.
- Consider the use of a shed alarm.
- Consider joining Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person or vehicle involved. **Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.**

For further advice www.scotland.police.uk or contact the Preventions Interventions Partnership Dept via 101 or email – edinburghpreventandintervent@scotland.pnn.police.uk