

## **HOME SECURITY ADVICE**

As we are approaching the busy festive period and experiencing darker nights, it is a good time to review security of your home. Things to consider:

Do you keep your keys in sight of a window?

If you have an alarm do you use it every time you go out or is it zoned?

Have you recorded all of the serial numbers for your electrical equipment?

Are your valuables easily accessible?

Have you uploaded your photos to the cloud or on to a hard drive?

The following tips could help prevent your house from being targeted:

- 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 you are out whilst it is dark, consider fitting light timers or leaving a light on.
- Fit and use outside security lights, either motion sensor or dusk to dawn – this comes 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
- 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](http://www.nsi.org.uk) or [www.ssaib.org](http://www.ssaib.org)
- Secure your shed and all tools that may be used to force entry.
- Consider the use of a shed alarm; these can be purchased at a number of police stations.
- 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 contact your local police station or visit <http://www.scotland.police.uk/> or <http://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/>