

Tick if NO If you have answered NO, please consider...

### WINDOWS

- Are your windows and frames in good condition?  Look at the condition of your window frames, as they can be easy to force if weakened by age. Again there are products available to reinforce them, and any new windows should be certificated to British Standard BS 7950
- Do your accessible windows (except those designated as a fire escape route) have locks with keys?  Fit locks on all your accessible windows – including those that could be reached by a nimble burglar. There are a number of good locks available which are relatively cheap and easy to fit. PVC-u windows may require specialist locks. For more information and advice contact your local Crime Reduction Advisor
- Do you keep your windows locked whenever you leave the house?  Make sure that you always remember to lock windows as well as doors when you leave your home

### PROPERTIES WHICH SHARE AN ENTRANCE

- If you live in a flat with a communal entry, do you make sure you never buzz strangers in?  Be extra careful about letting people in through shared front doors – if you don't know them, the simple advice is don't let them in
- When entering through communal doors, do you ensure strangers can't follow you in?

### GARAGES / SHEDS

- Do you have strong locks on your garage or shed?  Set about putting a strong padlock on your garage or shed. These often hold tools which are expensive to replace and could be used to break into your house
- If your garage is attached to your house, do you have deadlocks on connecting doors?  Any door connecting your garage to your house should be treated in the same way as an external door – someone could get into the garage and work on the connecting door without being seen. See the advice on locks for doors in reply to question 1
- Do you always lock tools and ladders away?  You should always make sure that your tools and ladders are always locked away as these can be used to break into your home. Ladders can be locked to a sturdy bracket on an outside wall if you don't have a garage



# HOME SECURITY SELF ASSESSMENT



FOR NON-EMERGENCY CALLS OR TO REPORT A CRIME CALL 0161 872 5050  
USE 999 ONLY IN EMERGENCIES WHERE THERE IS A THREAT TO LIFE OR CRIME IN PROGRESS



Research has been carried out with convicted burglars. These are some of the tricks they use when choosing a home.

- **They like empty houses, so they may check it out first by pretending to deliver leaflets and have a good look through the window**
- **They may knock on the door to check if anyone is in – if anyone answers, they will ask for...John? and say they have called at the wrong house**

If any of these happen to you, contact the police on 0161 872 5050

Tick if NO If you have answered NO, please consider...	
<b>OUTSIDE SECURITY / ENVIROMENT</b>	
Do you have working outside security lights?	<input type="checkbox"/> Good outdoor lighting can deter a burglar by making them fear detection or discovery. A low energy light bulb installed within a light that is designed to come on during the hours of darkness is relatively easy to fit and relatively cheap to run
Is your garden fence in good condition? Is your garden fence high enough to make climbing over difficult?	<input type="checkbox"/> Securing the perimeter of your garden can act as the first line of resistance. Check for weak spots in your fence, and make sure it's high enough to make climbing over the top difficult
Are trees or shrubs outside your home trimmed well back?	<input type="checkbox"/> These should always be well trimmed back so that burglars can't break in unobserved
Do you have strong locks on your gate or side fence?	<input type="checkbox"/> By having gates at the side of your house and making sure they are fitted with a decent lock you can stop burglars from easily getting into your garden
<b>PROPERTY MARKING</b>	
Have you marked the valuable property in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Marking your property is the best way of reducing its value if it's stolen. Use your postcode and the number of your house or flat to clearly identify it. UV pens or chemical trace or microdot liquids can be used on objects that could be damaged by visible marking. Also remember to keep photographs of valuable items such as jewellery to aid identification
Have you registered your mobile phone(s) with a property register company? Have you registered serial numbers or your computers, MP3 players and other equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider registering your property (mobile phones, MP3 players, laptops) with a company such as Immobilise ( <a href="http://www.immobilise.com">www.immobilise.com</a> ) - so that it can be traced back to you if it's recovered by the police amongst stolen items
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>	
Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch / Home Watch?	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider joining such a scheme – or even starting one if there isn't one in your area. Your local community needs your help in preventing and tackling crimes like burglary. Your local Neighbourhood Policing Unit will be able to provide details of your local scheme
<b>BURGLAR ALARMS</b>	
Do you have a working burglar alarm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider improving your security with a burglar alarm Many burglars will avoid breaking into your property with an alarm and will seek out easier properties. Contact your local Crime Reduction Advisor for further advice on alarms
Do you set it whenever you leave, and at night when you go to bed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that you always set your alarm when you leave your home and when you go to bed at night

Tick if NO If you have answered NO, please consider...	
<b>KEYS</b>	
Are you always careful not to leave keys near a door or window?	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaving keys within reach of a window, glass pane or in a lock could make a thief's job easier
Do you make sure you don't have spare keys hidden outside?	<input type="checkbox"/> It is not a good idea to leave keys outside. Burglars know that people hide spare keys under flowerpots, under doormats or in garages
<b>WHEN YOU ARE AWAY ON HOLIDAY</b>	
Do you ask friends to remove post, turn on lights and open your curtains?	<input type="checkbox"/> Take a few steps when going away on holiday to appear as though you are really at home. Ask a friend to open or shut curtains, turn lights on and off and remove your post. Cancel delivery of milk and papers
<b>WHEN YOU GO OUT IN THE EVENING</b>	
Do you leave a light on, other than a hall light, and shut the curtains?	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider installing automatic switches to turn lights on whilst you are out in the evening and remember to shut the curtains
<b>SAFETY WITH PEOPLE AT THE DOOR</b>	
Do you make use of the door spy hole and the security chain when you have a visitor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Take extra precautions when answering the door if you're not expecting visitors; use a spy hole or security chain, and check IDs carefully if visitors say they're from utility companies or the council
Do you check IDs of strangers who say they are from a utility company?	
<b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b>	
Do you keep valuable property away from windows?	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeping valuables out of sight and away from the windows reduces the chance of a potential burglar seeing them
<b>EXTERNAL DOORS</b>	
Does your front door have a robust deadlock bolt forward into the frame? ( i.e. a lock that requires a key to move he bolt forward into the frame?)	<input type="checkbox"/> You should consider upgrading your locks. If you have a wooden door more than 44mm thick, a 5-lever mortice lock is best. If you have a PVC-u door, a 3 multi-point lock is the best option. For more information and advice. Contact your local Crime Reduction Advisor for further advice
Are your doors or frames free from damage caused by weathering or neglect?	<input type="checkbox"/> Even if you have good locks, it won't do any good if your doors and frames are not strong. You don't necessarily need to replace your doors and frames as there are products available to reinforce your doors. However, if your doors or frames are in very poor condition you may need to replace them. If so make sure that the doorset is certificated to British Standard PAS 24
Are your front and back doors sufficiently strong to resist forced entry?	
Do you have robust deadlocks on your back door?	<input type="checkbox"/> You should consider upgrading your locks. The locks on your back door should be the same standard as on your front door – see advice from question 1
Do you lock your doors when you leave the house for a few minutes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that you always remember to lock up properly when you leave your home – even if you just pop out for a few minutes
Do you lock your doors at all time when you're home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that you keep your doors and windows locked when you're at home, including when you're out in the garden. One in three burglaries happen because doors and windows have been left open