

# Meet & Greet

# HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to ensure you give your home the best protection against opportunist burglary. This is designed to be used at any time you leave your home unattended, not just when on holiday.

These items are not listed in any order of importance but starred (\*) items are particularly important if you are leaving your home unattended for any significant period of time. If you would like to add any other good advice to the list please contact [info@bragstreet.org](mailto:info@bragstreet.org).

*Please note: Your NHW, the SNT or the Meet & Greet project team are in no way responsible if you are burgled having followed the steps below. We believe that by following some or all of the steps below you are giving yourself the best chance to avoid burglary by making your home appear occupied.*

## **General advice – MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK OCCUPIED.**

### **Before you go – essentials**

- Ensure your home/holiday insurance is up to date\*
- Ensure that all external doors are secured by a lock that is approved by your home insurer.
- If possible take all rubbish to the dump/recycling facility thus leaving no waste/recycling out of the front of your property for the duration of your trip.\*
- Ensure that your house keys do not display any of your personal details, especially if you are giving them to a trusted neighbour.
- Check with your SNT/Neighbourhood Watch to find out the latest threats and crime trends. [www.bragstreet.org](http://www.bragstreet.org) for the latest advice.
- Cancel Newspaper and Milk deliveries.\*
- Ensure that you have a nominated key holder and that your trusted neighbours know the dates you are away and the steps you have taken to protect your home.\*
- Ensure your trusted neighbour has your mobile phone number.
- Set light/lamp timers to turn on the lights at appropriate times of day.

- A radio/alarm can be used in the kitchen to give the impression of activity.
- If possible ask your trusted neighbour to visit your house as many times as is practical. If you have set light timers then ask them simply to open and close the curtains each day and also check the post is not on the front doorstep.\*
- All high value property is hidden in a safe, with a neighbour or with the Bank.
- Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been security marked with an identifying number in a manner approved by the local police. i.e. Smartwater or DNA
- Ensure all laptops and computers left in the home have adequate security so as your personal information is not at risk\*
- If you have a burglar alarm, ensure that it is set and your neighbours are aware of the contact numbers of your security company and/or keyholder.\*

## **Exterior**

- Shrubs and bushes are pruned so that there is no place for an intruder to hide.
- Floodlights or a motion-sensitive lighting system are used appropriately to ensure effective lighting of any dark areas around the house and grounds.
- Outdoor lights are on in the evening, whether we are at home or away.
- Ladders are all secured, trellises and drainpipes giving access to the upper floors of the house have been protected.
- Gates, garage and shed doors are locked.
- Shed hinges are secured with single use or security screws. Superglue can be used in the screw to prevent the hinge screws being undone.
- Side gates are locked.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other garden resources are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, they are locked to an immobile fixture.
- Garden furniture is stored away.
- Bicycles are locked, with a U-bar lock or a strong padlock and chain. Expensive bicycles should be brought into the house.
- Our house number or name is clearly displayed, so that police or other emergency services can find the house without delay
- Wheelie bins are not left down the side alley. These can be used to gain access over a side gate.
- Any tools in a shed which can be used to gain access to your house should be brought into the house. This includes garden tools, hammers, crowbars and power tools.
- Ensure that any outside power sockets are turned off at the fuse box.

- Grass is cut and front of property looks tidy.
- Gravel/Stones on the approaches to the property ensure that intruders are heard long before they get near your building.
- Plastic Fence/Wall spikes are used to protect the rear boundaries of your property. Rose bushes or any spiky plant can have the same effect.

## **Doors and Windows**

- All doors are locked\*
- All windows are fitted with locks and each window is closed and securely locked\*
- Outside Doors are strong, of solid hardwood or metal, and any glass panels in or around doors have been reinforced, so that they cannot be easily broken. Wide-angle viewers have been fitted for checking on callers.
- Stickers on the front door asking for no junk mail to be delivered.
- Window stickers – Neighbourhood Watch, DNA Security, protected by ADT etc etc
- Front door letterbox is not able to be used to obtain keys or goods from within the house.
- Internal doors should be locked/bolted where possible.

## **General Security**

- Car keys are left in a safe place and/or car is placed away from the house. Ensure that the car cannot be identified from the keys.
- Any house keys should be stored out of sight.
- Make an up to date inventory of all valuable property and a duplicate copy is kept in a secure place outside the home.
- Make a note of all credit card details and contact numbers in case you lose your cards when you are away. Also make a note of the contents of your wallet/purse in case of theft.
- Ask a trusted neighbour if they don't mind parking their car on your driveway.
- If going away on holiday consider using the royal mail keepsafe service. Especially if you do not have a trusted neighbour. <http://www2.royalmail.com/delivery/inbound-mail/keepsafe>
- If possible try to avoid discussing your holiday plans with strangers or spending too long packing up your car in the street.

*Please note: BRaG, your NHW or the SNT are in no way responsible if you are burgled having followed the steps below. We believe that by following some or all of*

*the steps below you are giving yourself the best chance to avoid burglary by making your home appear occupied.*