

BEAT THE BURGLAR

Secure your gardens with a fence and a lockable gate.

Consider light weight trellis or spiky plants on top of the fence, to hinder climbing.

Don't let bushes and trees hide burglars from view – burglars don't like being watched!

Don't leave tools or ladders in the garden to assist burglars. Secure wheelie bins away from the house and fences.

A movement activated floodlight unnerves burglars and helps you at night.

Consider a house alarm, with bell boxes to the front and rear – burglars don't always use the footpath!

Keep doors and windows locked even when at home.

Don't help sneak thieves. They only take a few seconds to steal something. This type accounts for one third of all house burglary offences.

If you have security devices and locks fitted, use them.

Don't leave keys in door or window locks. Keys on view can be used by burglars. Hide vehicle keys out of sight.

Don't leave valuables on view through windows.

Timer switches from DIY shops can be as little as £5.

Mark valuables with your house number and postcode.

For more information contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and ask to speak to a Police Community Support Officer.

WHAT IS A BURGLARY?

Burglary is by and large an opportunistic crime and there is a lot that you can do to make the burglar look elsewhere. Burglars are looking for a home that gives them the easiest way of committing their crime undetected, with the fewest obstacles to negotiate. One in three burglars do not need to use ANY force to gain entry and almost all of the burglaries committed in the East Riding are through a window or door.

Making your home looked lived-in

Even if you are away from home try to make your home look occupied:

Leave a radio or light on a timer switch to make the house sound and look occupied

If going on holiday – remember to cancel milk or newspapers. Don't make it obvious to burglars you are away.

Going Away? Don't close your curtains - in daytime this shows the house is empty. Use timer switches on lights instead. If possible ask a trusted neighbour to close your curtains in the evening.

Going away? As a trusted neighbour to collect your post and ask if they would park their car on your drive when you're holidaying.

Never leave spare keys in a hiding place such as under a doormat, in a flowerpot or inside the letterbox. One way to invalidate your home insurance

Make sure you use a burglar alarm (if you have one) every time you leave the house. There is no point in having one if you do not use it all the time. If you do not want to incur the expense of having a system fitted, think about buying a dummy box which may well act as a good deterrent.

If your property is stolen make sure you can describe it to the police by keeping a record of makes, models and unique serial numbers by registering the details onto www.immobilise.com. This is a web based property records system, endorsed and searchable by all UK Police Forces and second hand dealers.

If you update the database stating that an item is lost or stolen, it will be highlighted on police and dealer searches and should assist in returning items to their rightful owners and help bring offenders to justice.

If you want a member of police staff to create an account for you, all you need to do is click on 'immobilise@humberside.pnn.police.uk', fill in your name, address, contact details and your mobile phone details and submit the form. You will then receive an email from Immobilise to confirm your unique login details and you can add your other valuables at a time convenient to you.

HOW TO USE immobilise.com

Get your IT and treasured possessions close to hand, go online and visit www.immobilise.com.

Create your own free account following the simple instructions, before adding property details including any unique and searchable serial numbers.

If anything you've logged goes missing, inform the police and update it as lost or stolen on www.immobilise.com to help police and registered second hand dealers recover and return your property.

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