

Protecting your home from theft



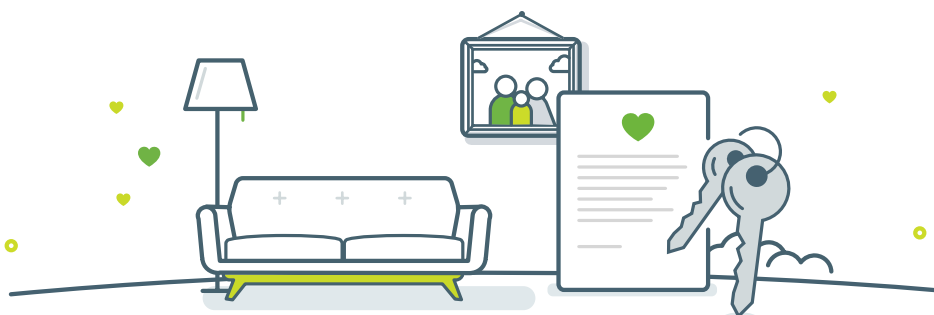
Top tips to keep the things you love safe and secure

- Keep your keys in a safe place, away from doors and windows, and don't hide them in predictable places like plant pots or under doormats.
- Strong, good quality doors and exterior security lights are sensible investments; if possible, install motion sensor lights at the front and back of your property.
- If you can, invest in a home security system – there's a lot of anti-theft technology out there, from simple alarms to sophisticated CCTV systems, so take your time to shop around and find what works for you.
- Remember to keep your security codes secret and change them regularly. Avoid picking obvious ones like your birthday.
- Maintain your doors, windows and locks regularly.
- Change locks immediately if you lose your keys or when you move into a new home.
- Get involved in a local neighbourhood watch scheme or make friends with some of your neighbours – people tend to look out more for each other in close-knit communities. This can also be useful when you're on holiday.



When you're away for while

- Keep all doors and windows locked- this includes any small, up-high windows.
- Keep your valuables, such as jewellery and cash, in a safe in your home.
- Ask someone you trust to pick up your mail and deliveries if you're away for a long time.
- Set your lights and some small appliances, such as your TV or radio, to switch on sometimes – if you don't own smart devices, automatic timer switches can help you do this.
- Avoid posting publicly on social media about your holiday until you're back.

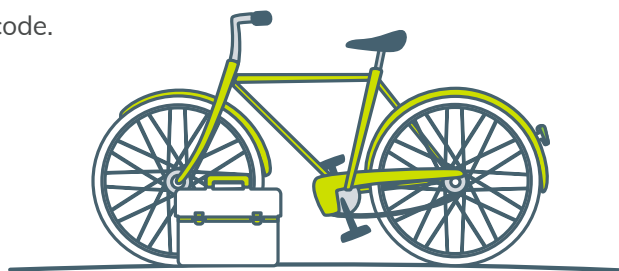




Don't forget your outbuildings – lock, hide, mark

- Always keep your sheds and garages locked when you're not around – use strong padlocks and wire mesh or grills for windows.
- Keep your tools and valuables locked away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.
- Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand or ground anchor.
- Cover your bikes, mowers and ladders with old sheets to keep them out of plain sight.
- Property mark your items and tools with your name and postcode.

Remember: even if you think you don't keep anything worth stealing in your outbuildings, sheds and garages often contain tools or ladders which thieves could use to break into your home.



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