



Burglars always look for easy targets  
**Make sure your home is secure**

# How safe is your home?

Reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary

See overleaf for some useful tips

**Stay safe and secure in Harrow**



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**TOTAL POLICING**

**Harrow** Council

# Security tips for your home

- 1 Low front boundaries should not exceed 1m in height, to allow natural surveillance and increase the chances of a burglar being seen.
- 2 Side and rear boundaries should be a minimum of 1.8m in height. If a boundary exceeds 2m in height, planning permission may be required. An additional diamond style trellis topping is difficult to climb and provides a framework for spiky, defensive planting, such as climbing roses.
- 3 Side gates should be level with the front building line, secure and the same height as the side and rear boundaries.
- 4 Wheelie bins should be stored behind secure side gates until collection day, to prevent them being used as climbing aids.
- 5 Metal up and over garage doors can be secured with additional locks fitted to either side and/or a floor mounted locking 'T' bar with a closed shackle padlock. Wooden garage doors can be secured with two substantial hasps and staples and closed shackle padlocks.
- 6 Shed doors can be secured with two substantial hasps and staples and closed shackle padlocks. Wrap a strong chain and padlock around ladders and garden equipment. Burglars use garden tools to force entry. Replace hinge screws with one-way clutch head screws and secure windows with internal grilles.
- 7 Gravel and pebbles on driveways and paths prevents a silent approach.
- 8 An intruder alarm system installed by an NSI or SSAIB affiliated company is an excellent deterrent. Most burglaries occur at the rear, so have an additional active alarm bell box fitted at the rear, as well as the front, to deter intruders approaching from neighbouring gardens or alleyways.
- 9 Fit low wattage 'dusk until dawn' security lights, as PIR (passive infra-red) sensor lights can be accidentally activated by animals.
- 10 Most UPVC and aluminium doors have multi-locking handles. If you have one of these doors always lift the handle, lock it and remove the key. If you haven't, surface mounted key operated locks can be fitted to the top and bottom. Wooden doors should have British Standard 5-lever mortice locks. A front door should also have an automatic deadlocking rim latch and a back door should have two mortice rack bolts, fitted to the top and bottom.
- 11 Downstairs windows or any easily accessible windows should have key operated locks. Shut and lock all windows when you leave the house or go to bed.
- 12 A safe, fixed to a solid floor and/or wall will prevent valuables and sentimental items being stolen. Property marking and photographing valuables assists police to return stolen property. Timers linked to lights and a radio will give the impression that somebody is at home.



Supporting you...



For more advice, visit  
[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

