

## **BURGLARY**

### **Did you know?**

- 35% of all burglaries are crimes of opportunity, where the burglar lets themselves in through unlocked doors or windows
- You are ten times more likely to be burgled if you don't have basic security - even something as simple as putting strong locks on your doors and windows will keep your house much safer
- Burglary has fallen by nearly 60% since 1995, but criminals are opportunists who will take advantage of any chance to steal from you, so you should remain aware

### **Facts & figures**

- The number of domestic burglaries fell by 11% between 2006-07 and 2007-08,
- Other household thefts fell by 12%
- Reports of criminal damage fell by 13%

(Source: [Crime in England and Wales 2007/08 report](#))

If you make your property more secure, it's a lot harder for criminals to break in, and it's easier for police to catch them.

### **Top 10 tips**

If you want to be certain your house is as safe as you can make it, here are 10 tips you should follow.

1. Fit strong locks to external doors and windows, and make sure they are locked at all times
2. Always remove all keys from inside locks, and keep them out of sight and in a safe place
3. Fit sturdy deadlocks (British Standard BS3621) to all doors
4. Make sure your doors and frames are strong and in good condition - wood doors should be at least 44mm thick
5. Mark your property - having it marked helps police verify it's been stolen
6. Fit a door chain or bar and door viewer (spy-hole), and use them.
7. Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat, in a flowerpot or behind a loose brick - thieves know to look there first
8. When you are out in the evening, leave your lights on and shut the curtains
9. Install outside security lighting; if other people can see your property a burglar may think twice
10. Keep your tools and ladders securely locked up – a burglar could use them to get into your house

The Home Office - Crime Prevention website have a two minute test for you to complete to see how secure your home really is.

Have a try: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/secureyourhome/questionnaire/index.php>