



WINTER BURGLARY ADVICE



1. **LIGHTING** - Use timer switches on lamps and radios as this will give the illusion that you are in, when not home. Exterior dusk till dawn lighting will make it more difficult for burglars to stay undetected.
2. **TRIM HEDGES AND TREES** - Trim down hedges to about 3 feet high so that burglars can't hide behind them, keeping any exterior lights free from obstruction. Consider planting some prickly plants such as *Pyracantha* (Firethorn) around the perimeter.
3. **FENCES, SHEDS AND GATES** - Make sure that fences and gates are in good condition and secured properly. Put several good locks/padlocks on shed doors. Fit trellis loosely on fences and gates, so that it can easily break if climbed.
4. **LADDERS AND TOOLS** - Never leave tools or ladders out, always lock them away in a properly secured shed or garage as they could be used by burglars to break into your home.
5. **FIT LOCKS** - Fit good quality deadlocks to outside doors and ensure you have locks on ground floor windows and patio doors - never leave the keys in the locks or on window sills. Ensure everyone at home knows where keys are in the event of a fire.
6. **VALUABLE ITEMS ON VIEW** - (laptops, digital cameras, car keys, jewellery etc). Leave valuable items out of sight, burglars will look through letter boxes for items.
7. **GOLD JEWELLERY** - Using an in house safe can help secure jewellery; alternatively secure them at a bank.
8. **WINDOW AND DOOR LOCKS** - Close and lock all doors and windows even if you are just popping out for a few minutes. Making sure everyone in the house knows where the keys are kept.
9. **CURTAINS AND BLINDS** - Close curtains and blinds when it starts getting dark out - if there is a light on indoors and it is dark outside, it provides ideal conditions for burglars to 'window shop'.
10. **SECURITY MARKING** - Registering your valuable items, phones, laptops & TV's etc. at www.immobilise.com this company also provide property marking 'micro dots'.
11. **WHEELY BINS** - Always bring bins in after weekly collections, as it is known that burglars use bins to climb over fences and gates, to gain access to the back of a property.
12. **CHRISTMAS** - Never leave presents on show even if they are wrapped and under the tree. Making sure empty boxes of expensive gifts are properly ripped up, as boxes alert burglars of what you have. Keep a record of any serial numbers of electrical items and record them on www.immobilise.com, keeping your receipts a safe place.
13. **WHILE YOUR AWAY**- Ask someone you trust (e.g. A family member) to come and pick up your post, cancelling papers and milk deliveries. Ask a neighbour to move your bins out of sight.

MILL HILL

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**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

TERRITORIAL POLICING