



Know your neighbours

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are groups of volunteers who work in partnership with the police and the local council.

They distribute advice on security and safety within a designated area and help ensure elderly or vulnerable members of the community aren't targets for criminals.

To join a local scheme or for more information visit:

- www.ourwatch.org.uk
- www.kent.police.uk/neighbourhoodwatch



Contact us

Report a crime:

-  Call **101** to report a non-urgent crime or to contact your local officer
-  Call **999** if a crime is in progress or life is in danger
-  If you are deaf or speech-impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
-  Visit your nearest police front counter to report non-urgent crime

News, information and advice:

-  Speak to an officer – at a police surgery, at a front counter or by calling **101**
-  Visit our website – **www.kent.police.uk**
-  Follow **@kent_police** or your district account on Twitter
-  Find us on **Facebook**
-  Chat to officers online – **www.kent.police.uk/onlinemeeting**
-  Sign up for your district e newsletters – **www.kent.police.uk/enews**

For details of all the ways to contact us, visit **www.kent.police.uk/contactus**

For other information guides in this series, visit **www.kent.police.uk/yourguide**

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in large print, another format or language, call us on **01622 652158** or email us at **communications@kent.pnn.police.uk**

Home and garden security

Your guide to crime prevention



**Kent
Police**



Given the opportunity, thieves will target homes and gardens for valuable items, tools and money, which they can sell on or use in other crimes.

Kent Police works with organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch to issue crime prevention advice and encourage residents to keep a watchful eye out in their neighbourhoods to deter and report any criminal activity.

This guide outlines some simple steps you can take to improve the security of your home and garden, and reduce the opportunity for thieves.

Secure your home

- Lock doors and windows when you go out or work in the garden – if you have uPVC windows or doors then double-lock them with the keys to secure them properly.
- Never leave keys or valuables on display near windows or doors.
- Avoid keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- Photograph and security mark valuable items and keep receipts somewhere safe.
- Consider installing a good quality safe to the appropriate British/European standard
- Safes should be bolted to a solid wall or floor and concealed, for example in a cupboard or fitted wardrobe. For information on safes visit www.securedbydesign.com

- Consider fitting intruder alarms, door chains, a spy hole and external lights.
- Don't open the door to unexpected callers – use a door chain and check their identity first.
- If an offer seems too good, it probably is – don't part with your money unless you are sure the source is genuine.
- Dispose of packaging carefully – wrapping and boxes for expensive items can advertise rich pickings for criminals.
- Cancel milk and papers when you go away, and use timer switches on lights and radios to give the impression someone is home.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property while you are away.

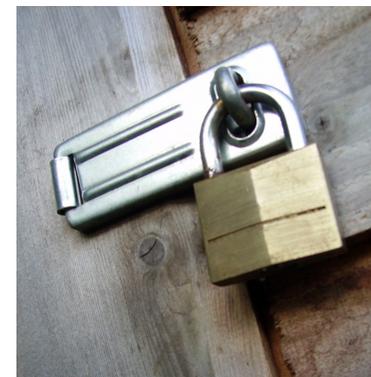
Lock your car

- Close the windows and sunroof and lock your vehicle when you leave it.
- Use an alarm, immobiliser or steering lock if possible.
- Take all valuables with you when you leave your vehicle – thieves know where to look.
- Remove portable sat navs and clean suction marks from your windscreen or dashboard.
- Don't leave tools or equipment in vehicles overnight.
- Park in a garage, in view from your home, or in a busy well-lit area where possible.



Protect your garden

- Maintain hedges and fences to prevent unwanted visitors from entering your garden.
 - Close your garden gate and lock it from the inside.
 - Store bins and ladders carefully so they can't be used as climbing aids.
 - Store tools and equipment somewhere secure after use so they don't get stolen or used to break into your home.



- Secure sheds and garages with suitable locks and consider fitting shed alarms and security lights.
- Disable lawn mowers and other large machinery when not in use and chain items together or to a solid anchor point.
- Security-mark valuable items – taking photographs and recording details such as serial numbers and identifying marks can also help to identify items if they get lost or stolen.
- Consider registering valuables on a property database such as www.immobilise.com