

Police advice to avoid becoming victim of housebreaking this autumn



Police Scotland have issued advice to the public to help avoid becoming a victim of housebreaking with the darker nights setting in.

A statement on the website states: "Take a few simple steps to avoid becoming a victim of a housebreaking this autumn/winter. Now that the darker nights are back and the evenings are drawing in, we want you to remain safe and would like to share the below advice with you.

- If you're going away or even going out for the evening, set a timer switch to turn your lights on when it gets dark. Unlit houses are a giveaway that no one is at home.
- Remember to lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows. Also lock any windows on the first floor where access can be gained via a flat roof.
- If you're at the rear of the house or in the garden, lock your front doors and windows. This simple act will deter opportunistic criminals.
- If you have a house alarm... USE IT. Make sure you set it when you go out and when you go to bed.
- Don't leave car keys, ID cards, or valuables near windows, doors or letterboxes, where thieves can reach through to steal them.
- Lock your garden gates and side entrances. Don't leave tools lying around in the garden which could be used to break in to your home.
- Property mark your valuables.

- Register your property on Immobilise, the UK national property register <https://www.immobilise.com/>
- Register bikes on <https://www.bikeregister.com/>

Find out more in our [Keep Safe pages](#), and if you have information about a housebreaking phone the Police on 101 or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.