

Police issue security advice as we approach festive season and darker nights

As we approach the festive period and darker nights, it's a good time to review security of your home and Police Scotland have issued the following advice.

Do you keep your keys in view of a window?

Sash and Case Window Security

The most effective way of ensuring the security of your sash windows is to ensure they are well-maintained and working effectively.

If your windows are well-maintained and properly locked, as with most windows, they will provide a fair level of security.

The following products can improve the safety of your windows:

Sash Stops

Sash stops are fitted on the upper sash and this prevents the sashes from sliding over each other. There are two types of sash window locks for sash stops. You can either get protruding bolts that are removed with a key or bolts that are extracted just like with dual screws. You can fit the sash stops 100mm above the top of the lower sash to enable the window to be opened a little for ventilation without the worry that someone can get through the window.



Dual Screws/Window bolts

Dual screws fit most sash windows and they offer added security to put your mind to rest. These sash window locks bolt through the top and bottom sash to stop the window from opening. The bolt locks the sashes into place and avoid any sliding, even if the fastener is compromised and can be removed with the key.

A Window Bolt is suitable for most types of wooden windows including casement, side hung, top hung and sash windows. Simply press the spring bolt to lock and use the key to unlock.



Sash Jammer

Sash Jammers are commonly used as additional security to secure uPVC doors or windows and are available as locking and non-locking options. A Sash jammer will prevent a door or window from opening should the lock be bypassed by a thief.



Glass Guard Window or Magnetic window/door alarm

The Glass Guard Window Alarm is an effective low cost vibration alarm that can be used for securing windows or patio doors.

Detecting the opening of windows or doors, the Magnetic window/door alarm then alerts you to this opening with a loud alarm through the main unit, increasing safety in your home.



If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person or vehicle involved. **Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.**

For further advice contact your local police station or visit <http://www.scotland.police.uk/> or <http://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/>

If you have an alarm, do you use it, is it zoned?

Have you recorded the serial numbers for your electrical equipment?

Are your valuables easily accessible?

Have you uploaded your photos to the cloud or onto a hard drive?

Here's a few tips:

- Ensure your locks are tested to British Standard or meet the needs of your insurance company.
- Keep doors and windows locked.

- Keep car keys secure and hidden.
- If you are out whilst it is dark, consider fitting light timers or leaving a light on.
- Fit outside security lights, either motion sensor or dusk to dawn.
- Window locks should be fitted where appropriate and used all the time.
- Do not leave the key in the lock.
- Mark all the electrical equipment with an ultraviolet marker pen
- At the front of the house hedges or trees should be trimmed or cropped so as not to provide cover for thieves.
- Laptop computers and mobile phones are favourite housebreaking targets. These should be locked away or removed from view. Add tracking software to smart phones, laptops and I pads to aid in the recovery of these items
- Consider investing in a safe or strong box for storage of cash and valuables. A safe should be securely fixed to the fabric of the building and should only be used for short-term storage of cash.
- Consider an intruder alarm system. More info can be found here www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssaib.org
- Secure your shed and all tools (may be used to force entry).
- Consider a shed alarm.
- Consider joining www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

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[Further advice –](#)