

# Summer Crime and Break-Ins

While we are enjoying the summer months and the warmer weather that usually comes with it, it is worth considering the possible risks to your home and its security if left unattended.

## Why more break-ins occur during the summer months

The longer daylight hours generally encourages homeowners and tenants to spend more time away from their homes, and this is considered to be one of the reasons that break-ins and burglaries can increase in the summer months. Whether you are spending more time in the local beer gardens or watching outdoor sporting or music events, it is worth being mindful that you are leaving an unoccupied home.

With the warmer weather, people are also more likely to leave doors and windows open to get some fresh air in the home, which can mean forgetting to lock doors or windows.

## What steps can you take to secure your empty property?

In order to minimise the risk of a break in, here are some of our tip tips to ensure you stay protected this summer:

- **Keep all windows and doors locked**

Make sure all doors and windows are locked whenever you leave the property. This may sound obvious, but this is the time of year when you are likely to have windows open and it only takes one forgotten open window for someone to find their way inside. It may be tempting not to bother if you think you will be gone for less than a few minutes, but ask yourself, is it worth the risk?

- **Consider having an alarm installed**

The next steps are to consider installing an alarm system if you have not already. Always activate it when leaving the property and ensure you do not leave any valuables on show, especially if you live somewhere heavily populated, such as by the side of the main road or a public footpath.

- **Ask neighbours to check in**

It's nice to have someone you trust to check your property regularly; to put mail in a safe place and to generally display signs of someone in the house; opening and closing curtains, switching lights on/off and checking for visible signs of damage which might otherwise alert people to an empty house.

- **Do you know your visitors?**

Never let people you do not know inside your home. Opportunists might try to lie their way into your property to determine the best access points or to create one when your back is turned. Never allow someone inside if you were not expecting them and always ask for I.D. Check their identification as thoroughly as you need to. If they are genuine, they will understand.

We hope that you will never suffer a theft or break-in, but these things do happen, and that it is worth considering home contents insurance, either through the My Home Contents Insurance scheme or by making alternative arrangements.

Contents insurance is designed to help protect your possessions and personal belongings. You should consider what a home contents insurance policy would cover you for in order to help you make an informed decision on whether you need one.

The My Home Contents Insurance scheme was designed for tenants in social housing, where you can pay premiums cash fortnightly or monthly, monthly by direct debit or annually. (Fortnightly and monthly premiums include a transaction charge).

## Contact us

For more information or to apply for cover, please call The My Home Contents team on:

Phone: **0345 450 7288**

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Visit [www.thistlemyhome.co.uk](http://www.thistlemyhome.co.uk) where

you can also request someone to call you back!

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