

HOUSEBREAKING ADVICE



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

Across the whole of the UK there have been a number of Housebreakings to Asian households that have been targeting Asian jewellery and cash. Police Scotland are pro-actively targeting these criminals. Although the percentage of housebreakings in the Asian community are low, the reward to the criminal is high owing to the high value of Asian gold. The information in this booklet has been provided to ensure that the community can be proactive in the security of their homes and valuables.

www.scotland.police.uk

Personal Safe / Security boxes

The most important message we can give is not to keep valuables at home if possible. If a storage facility can be provided by your bank or building society then this is the best option. There are private companies who offer similar services.

If this option is unavailable an insurance rated safe should be considered comparable with or greater than the value of the contents. Safes should be installed as per the manufacturer's guidelines and securely attached to the fabric of the building. Ideally have an insurance approved installer fit a safe in your home.

Alarm Systems

A monitored alarm system would be recommended as this is the only way you can guarantee that the police will be called in the event of a break-in. Otherwise an audible alarm may also be an effective deterrent. If investing in an alarm system look for companies that are linked to approved bodies such as National Security Inspectorate and alarm systems should comply with British Standards PD6662.

Lighting

Good lighting around the outside your home is important security feature, we recommend dusk to dawn lighting. This increases the opportunity of criminals being seen around your home or garden. If you already have existing lighting make sure it is working properly and change any broken lightbulbs.

Fencing

Restricting access around the rear of your property is a good measure of security perimeter fencing of 1.8meters high can be installed without planning permission. Gates should be lockable and not easily removed.

Windows / Doors

If considering new windows and or doors consider purchasing products tested to Secured by Design standards of PAS 24 2016 with laminated glazing in ground floor windows. Alternatively a less expensive method of increasing window security is by installing security window film, this product can be found online. (Youtube example - <https://youtu.be/96x2tO9Xuxw>)

Internal Lighting

Purchase lighting timer switches for your home gives the illusion that someone might be home, even consider placing timers around your home which makes it appear as if people are moving in different rooms. Leaving a radio on or buying a TV simulator light also gives the appearance of someone within the home.

General Maintenance

Try and avoid leaving tools or items that can be used to break a window or door lying around the garden. Keeping garden planting tidy Shrubbery below 1 meter and lower branches of trees above 2 meters can help with good natural surveillance.

Social Media

Consider what posts you forward especially if you are commenting on going on holiday or attending weddings, functions or posting pictures with jewellery on full show. Your phone and social media accounts should be set to friends only and ensure that your GPS location is switched off.

Unusual Activity

Report unusual activity to your local police office i.e. people offering work in the area, cards being posted through the door offering work. Criminals can often use this as a method of identifying potential targets and by reporting this information to the police might help identify groups or individuals involved.

CCTV

Can be a very expensive security measure with strict legislation that should be followed money can be better spent on improving some of the above security measures rather than on an expensive CCTV systems.

One product that has been identified as effective is the RING camera doorbell system which has assisted the police in their investigations and captured good quality images.

Property marking / Insurance

Consider property marking, items with either an ultra violet pen or other property making product such as Smartwater (others are available).

Check you have adequate insurance coverage for valuable items and every year or two ensure that you check with your insurer that cover still protects the amount of your valuables. Photograph and keep an inventory of your valuables as a record for yourself and to assist in any insurance claim. Photo's also assist the police when investigating crimes.

Immobilise is a property registering company which records details of serial numbers, descriptions and photographs of your valuables. You can get more information about this service online.



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Police emergency: 101

Police non-emergency: 999

www.scotland.police.uk

Trading Standards: 03454040506

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555111