

LOCK IT, DON'T LOSE IT DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

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We know this message comes up time after time but, unfortunately, burglaries at insecure properties are still a cause for concern.

While the overall number of house burglaries across the county has fallen over the past year, there have been a number of recent incidents where an opportunist burglar has taken advantage of an unlocked door or window.

It may seem obvious advice but it's important to get into the habit of locking all doors and making sure all windows are secure every time you go out and when you go to bed.

Hopefully, this is something you already do automatically, but if you know anyone who might need a gentle reminder about their home security, please pass this message on.

Here are some simple security tips to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime:

For your home:

- Keep front and back doors locked at all times – even when you are at home
- If you open windows for air, make sure that they are closed before you go out or leave the room
- Never leave valuables on show through a window or door – including laptops, which are another regular target for burglars
- Make sure you take keys out of locks and keep them and other valuables out of reach of letter boxes and cat flaps
- Leave a light on or use a timer switch so that your house looks occupied if you are out after dark
- Don't forget garages, sheds and outbuildings – make sure they're locked and secure too
- If you have a burglar alarm, use it!

For your vehicle:

- Always keep your car locked and close the windows - even if you are only leaving the vehicle for a few moments.
- Always remove all items from your vehicle when parked - even an old coat may be enough to tempt a thief.
- Ensure when removing your sat nav, that the cradle and suction pad are also removed and any suction marks are wiped away.
- Never leave keys in the ignition, not even at a garage when paying for petrol.
- Keep keys safe at all times, whether you're out or at home.

More crime prevention advice and information about how to carry out a home security survey is available at www.northants.police.uk/guardian

We also rely on information from the public. If you have any information about crime and criminals in your area, please call us on 03000 111 222