The key to keeping your home safe this winter

Making your home look occupied is the key to keeping your home safe this winter

Dark winter nights can make homes easy pickings for criminals if there is no sign that someone is home

Bexley is one of the safest boroughs in London and the chance of becoming a victim of burglary here is low. However—dark winter evenings and empty homes can be too tempting for some criminals.

Having your home violated by thieves can have a long-lasting emotional impact but by taking just a few simple steps you can reduce the chances of it happening to you.

Improve your home security

When you go out it is important to ensure that you leave your home as secure as possible

✔ Check that you have closed and locked all your doors and windows before leaving the house

✔ If you have uPVC doors or windows double-lock them with the keys to secure them properly

✔ Leave some lights on if it will be dark before you get home

✔ Make sure that any valuables are out of sight

✔ Install low wattage 'dusk to dawn' outside lighting

✔ If you have a burglar alarm remember to activate it

Burglar alarms are an effective deterrent.
Ensure they are professionally installed and maintained yearly.

ALARM SYSTEM ✓

Burglar alarms are the most effective deterrent. Security lights can also be a very good crime prevention measure.

Don't invite burglars into your home!

Doors and windows are the primary route of entry and exit for most burglars. **Remember** always lock your doors and windows, even if you are going out for a few minutes!

More advice from the Metropolitan Police at www.met.police.uk

Going away this winter?

If you are going away for days or weeks at a time you will need to take additional action. Remember to -

✔ Cancel milk or other deliveries

✔ Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property while you are away, including taking care of your dustbins

Protect the property outside your home

Burglars are attracted to outbuildings such as sheds and garages because they contain everyday items that a thief can easily sell. To reduce the risk of theft -

✔ Secure sheds and garages with suitable locks and consider fitting shed alarms and security lights

✔ Don't leave tools and other equipment outside, you don't want them stolen or used to break into your home

✔ If you don't have a shed, use a heavy padlock and secure tools, including ladders to an anchor device

✔ Store dustbins carefully so they can't be used to climb on

✔ Security mark valuable items

✔ Close your garden gate and lock it from the inside

✔ Ensure fences are secure. This can be done by installing trellising

Who is keeping an eye on your car keys?

Some thieves break into homes to steal car keys and then your car. Make sure you keep your car keys in a safe place, put them out of sight where they can't be seen from a letterbox or window.

What do you keep in your shed?

Golf clubs, power tools, fishing equipment? All expensive items that are very attractive to burglars as they are very easy to sell on. Gardening tools could also be used to break into your home.

Use two large strong locks and keep your shed locked at all times.

Top Tip:

Use timers. Set your timer to turn your lights on when it gets dark to help create the impression that someone is home.

Background noise can make your home feel occupied. They are available from most diy stores for a few pounds each. Some timers automatically turn on other appliances such as a radio or sound system.

This Christmas

Don't put presents in a room where they are visible from the street.

Don't leave the packaging from expensive gifts outside in bins where they can be seen.

Get to know your neighbours

Bexley Neighbourhood Watch is made up of groups of volunteers who work in partnership with the police and London Borough of Bexley. They help distribute crime prevention advice on security and home safety to help keep the communities of Bexley safer.

If you are interested in starting or joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Visit: www.bexleywatch.org.uk

Email: bexwatch-office@btconnect.com

Phone: 020 8284 5537

This winter we want to encourage residents to keep a watchful eye out in their neighbourhood to help deter criminal activity

Alleygates

Burglaries sometimes happen when thieves gain access to the side or rear of properties via private alleyways. By getting together with your neighbours you can help prevent access to your alleyway by installing an alleygate. Alleygates are situated at entrances and exits to alleyways. They effectively restrict access to anyone who does not have a key.
For more information
Visit: www.bexley.gov.uk

Bogus callers

Bogus callers try to trick their way into your home. They could pose as tradesmen or a utility worker, a council official or police officer.

✔ First check to see who is at the door using your door viewer or window. If you open the door always put the chain on

✔ Phone the organisation they claim to represent. Do not use any numbers they give you

✔ All utility companies operate a password scheme, phone their customer services department to set one up

✔ If you are unsure do not let them in, politely tell them that you are not letting them in and do not engage in further conversation with them.

✔ If they remain at your door call the police

If you have any information about who is committing burglary, receiving or handling stolen goods in Bexley, we want to hear from you. Call the police non-emergency number 101. If you would prefer not to talk to police call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, just tell them what you know not who you are. In an emergency always call 999.

METROPOLITAN POLICE

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BEXLEY BOROUGH

BCSp Bexley Community Safety Partnership
Keeping Bexley Safe

LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY