

Neighbourhood Alert Message from Thames Valley Police November 2016

Top tips for keeping your home secure this winter

Now the clocks have gone back many of you will be going out during daylight and returning home after dark.

Most burglaries are opportunistic, targeting houses that look unsecure or unoccupied. As it starts to get darker earlier it is important to review your home security to avoid becoming a victim of this crime.

Please take the time to look at our top tips for keeping your property safe this winter:

- Close and lock all your doors and windows - if you have a UPVC door make sure you double lock it
- Use a timer switch to turn on your lights, TV or radio when you're out – this will help give the impression that your home is occupied
- A pile of post is a clear sign you are away - ask a trusted friend or neighbour to remove it or use Royal Mail's 'keepsafe' service.
- Make sure that valuables like electronic equipment and jewellery are kept out of sight so as not to attract unwanted attention
- Never leave keys anywhere near the front door, including the letterbox, burglars know where to look!
- Visibly and permanently marking your belongings helps the police identify them if they are stolen and can make it difficult for a thief to dispose of
- Register your valuables at www.immobilise.com – it's free, takes just a few minutes and, if your valuables are stolen, will help us to reunite you with your property
- Install a burglar alarm and make sure you set it every time you go out. Fitting security lighting outside your property may also help to deter criminals
- Make sure your sheds and garages are secure by fitting good quality padlocks
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates and remove or secure items that could be used to gain access

If you witness any suspicious behaviour or would like to report a crime please contact us via 101 or 999 in an emergency.

For more information please see the crime prevention pages on the [Thames Valley Police website](#) or follow us on Twitter [@TVP_Wycombe](#),
