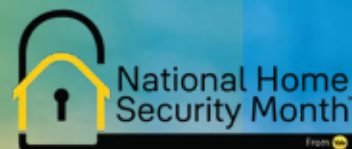


top 10 security tips

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As we head into the winter months, the days get shorter, and the nights get darker, and we start to see a spike in burglaries.

Throughout October, the team at National Home Security Month are on hand to help provide tips and advice on how you can make your home safe and secure.

Here the experts from National Home Security Month have provided 10 security tips to help you make sure your home is as secure as possible this winter and all year round.

1 Check your front door security

The front door is such an important space to offer protection for the rest of your home, and so it's worth investing in high quality security for the front of your property. If your door security isn't up to scratch a burglar could easily break or snap the cylinder and enter the home, so updating your cylinder is a cost-effective way of improving your home security.



Install a Platinum 3 Star Cylinder or a product which has TS007 Kitemark to make sure you have the highest level of protection. It's important to have high quality locks but also use them efficiently, for example locking all doors and windows at night but also during the day, even when you're at home.

2 Try the £1 coin trick

When checking to see if your locks need changing, using a simple £1 coin trick can help to test if your cylinder could be easily compromised by lock snapping and if you need a new, more secure lock. If your lock cylinder protrudes more than the depth of a £1 coin, then your lock could be easily snapped, and potentially broken into. This quick and easy trick can highlight if your cylinder needs replacing and can help to prevent your home being left vulnerable.



3 Upgrade to a smart lock

More homeowners are introducing smart tech into their homes, providing added convenience in their daily lives.

Smart security can not only provide convenience but also peace of mind, with the ability to check in on the property from anywhere. A smart door lock is an efficient upgrade to your door security, allowing you to check on the status of your front door from anywhere.

Controlled through a smartphone app, and accessed with your smartphone, key fob, card or PIN code, a smart lock puts you in control of your home security.



4 Check and maintain your perimeters



A garden can provide the perfect cover for burglars to move around your property undetected. Trees, bushes, and shrubs make the perfect camouflage for opportunists hidden in the darkness.

To prevent this, keep all hedges and bushes trimmed back, as this also signals that the property is occupied and well maintained.

5 Set up security cameras

Setting up smart security cameras at the front, back or side of your property can enable you to keep a check on the external areas of your home, from anywhere.

A security camera can also act as a visual deterrent to a burglar, as it shows you take your home security seriously. An internal smart security camera can also be an effective security measure for the home. An internal camera allows you to check any unusual activity inside the home.



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6 Arm your alarm when you're away and at home

Having an alarm system in your property can keep your home protected when you're not there. A smart alarm lets you arm and disarm the alarm from anywhere at any time, so you know you're always in control.



As a burglar could strike at any time of day, it's important to set your alarm when you're out the house, but also when you're at home, for example when you're in bed at night.

7 Fix your fences

As we head into the winter months, we tend to spend less time in our gardens. So before you head inside for the winter it's important to check your garden is secure and safe from unwanted visitors.



The smallest crack in a fence panel can gradually get worse throughout the harsh winter months, which can eventually provide space for a burglar to gain access to your garden. Replace any old fence panels, fix any which have broken and repair any wooden gates, ensuring they're sturdy and fitted with secure locks, such as a bolt or weatherproof padlock.

8 Update the front of your home

How the front of your home looks can signal to opportunists if you keep your property well maintained.



Having a gravel drive can also act as an effective deterrent to opportunistic thieves. A gravel drive can make a lot of noise and so makes being discreet much more difficult!

9 Light up your property with security lighting

The darker evenings provide burglars with more opportunities to move around your property unseen under the cover of darkness. And so, security lighting is an effective method of lighting up the key areas around the exterior of your home, such as your front door.

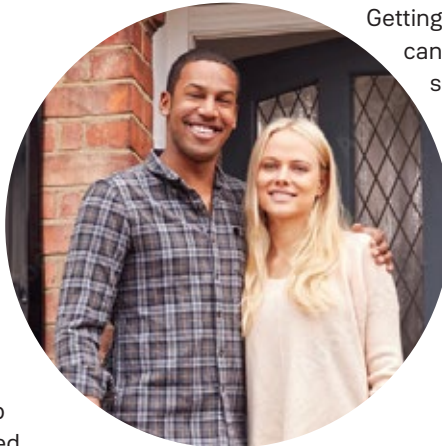


Security lighting can act as a visual deterrent and show burglars you maintain your home security. It can alert you and neighbours if there's unusual activity at the property and scare off any opportunistic burglars.

Smart lighting lets you create a schedule for when the lights come on. Ideal for when on holiday or away from home, the light will come on with a timer, making the home look occupied.

10 Make friends with neighbours

Getting to know your neighbours can bring benefits for your home security.



Together, you can share information on any unusual activity in the area or watch over each other's homes when you're away, allowing you to always be in the know over your home security.

For further information and advice, please visit www.homesecuritymonth.com or search for National Home Security Month on Facebook  and Twitter 

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