



## Common Entry Points to Your Property

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It's the same old story in some parts of the county, opportunists trying the front door handle. If it isn't double locked they try to force it. If it is locked they try round the back of the house to force or break their way in if they think it might be worth the effort -

The two most common entry points for burglars are either the front door or from the back of your property here are some tips to help keep you from becoming a victim:-

- Most UPVC doors, as with windows, use a multi locking system. Make sure you know how to use it. When inside pulling the handle up will engage all the locks but will only lock the centre lock. To lock them all in place you must use the key (if in doubt try it before the burglar does, otherwise the burglar only needs a small screwdriver to force that centre lock on its own).

**Fire Safety** you must have the key readily available in case of fire, but not in view of any windows or a letterbox.

- Is there clear unobstructed access to the rear? Burglars will prefer to gain access out of sight at the rear. Where possible fence and gate access to the rear should be topped with some trellis or spiky toppings (NB: the spiky topping requires a warning notice). Make sure you always lock the gate.

Looking forward, use defensive planting, something like Berberus, Pyracantha or Hawthorn around perimeter fencing or anything else you wish to protect. For example, a domestic fuel tank. Some garden centres sell larger and more established plants and these are suitable for this purpose.