

 **SECURE**

 **PROTECT**

 **PREVENT**

HOME SECURITY SELF ASSESSMENT



**ESSEX
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex



Essex
CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime



EXTERNAL DOORS

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Does your front door have a robust deadlock i.e. a lock that requires a key to move the bolt forward into the frame?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>You should consider upgrading your locks. If you have a wooden door more than 44mm thick, a 5-lever mortice lock is best. If you have a PVCu door, a 3 multi-point lock is the best option. For more information and advice contact your local police force and ask for their Crime Prevention Officer or Crime Prevention Design Officer.</p> |
| <p>2 Are your doors or frames free from damage caused by weathering or neglect?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Even if you have good locks, it won't do any good if your doors and frames are not strong. You don't necessarily need to replace your doors and frames as there are products available to reinforce your doors. However, if your doors or frames are in very poor condition you may need to replace them. If so make sure that the doorset is certificated to British Standard PAS 24.</p> |
| <p>3 Are your front and back doors sufficiently strong to resist forced entry?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <p>4 Do you have a robust deadlock on your back door?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>You should consider upgrading your locks. The locks on your back door should be the same standard as on your front door - see advice from question 1.</p> |
| <p>5 Do you lock your doors when you leave the house for even a few minutes?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Make sure that you always remember to lock up properly when you leave your home - even if you just pop out for a few minutes.</p> |
| <p>6 Do you lock your doors at all times when you're home?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked when you're at home, including when you're out in the garden.</p> |

WINDOWS

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

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|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Are your windows and frames in good condition? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Look at the condition of your window frames, as they can be easy to force if weakened by age. Again there are products available to reinforce them, and any new windows should be certificated to British Standard BS 7950. |
| 2 | Do your accessible windows (except those designated as a fire escape route) have locks with keys? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fit locks on all your accessible windows – including those that could be reached by a nimble burglar. There are a number of good locks available which are relatively cheap and easy to fit. PVCu windows may require specialist locks. For more information and advice contact your local police force and ask for their Crime Prevention Officer or Crime Prevention Design Officer. |
| 3 | Do your accessible windows (except those designated as a fire escape route) have locks with keys? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Make sure that you always remember to lock windows as well as your doors when you leave your home. |

PROPERTIES WHICH SHARE AN ENTRANCE

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | If you live in a flat with a communal entry, do you make sure you never buzz strangers in? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Be extra careful about letting people in through shared front doors – if you don't know them the simple advice is don't let them in. |
| | When entering through communal doors, do you ensure strangers can't follow you in? | | |

GARAGES / SHEDS		Tick if no:	If you have ticked the box please consider:
1	Do you have strong locks on your shed or garage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Set about putting a strong padlock on your garage or shed. These often hold tools which are expensive to replace and could be used to break into your house.
2	If your garage is attached to your house, do you have deadlocks on connecting doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any door connecting your garage to your house should be treated in the same way as an external door – someone could get into the garage and work on the connecting door without being seen. See the advice on locks for doors in reply to question 1.
3	Do you always lock tools and ladders away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	You should make sure that your tools and ladders are always locked away as these can be used to break into your home. Ladders can be locked to a sturdy bracket on an outside wall if you don't have a garage.

OUTSIDE SECURITY / ENVIRONMENT		Tick if no:	If you have ticked the box please consider:
1	Do you have working outside security lighting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good outdoor lighting on your property can deter a burglar. A low energy bulb installed within a light that is designed to come on during the hours of darkness is relatively easy to fit and relatively cheap to run.
2	Is your garden fence in good condition? Is your garden fence high enough to make climbing over difficult?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Securing the perimeter of your garden can act as the first line of resistance. Check for weak spots in your fence, and make sure it's high enough to make climbing over the top difficult.
3	Are trees or shrubs outside your home trimmed well back?	<input type="checkbox"/>	These should always be well trimmed back so that burglars can't break in unobserved.

PROPERTY MARKING

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

- 1 **Have you marked the valuable property in your home?**

☐

Marking your property is the best way of reducing its value if it's stolen. Use your postcode and the number of your house or flat to clearly identify it. UV pens or chemical trace or microdot liquids can be used on objects that could be damaged by visible marking. Also remember to keep photographs of valuable items such as jewellery to aid identification.

- 2 **Have you registered your mobile phone(s) with a property register company? Have you registered serial numbers of your computers, MP3 players and other equipment?**

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Consider registering your property (mobile phones, MP3 players, laptops) with a company such as Immobilise (www.immobilise.com) – so that it can be traced back to you if it's recovered by the police amongst stolen items.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

- 1 **Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch / Home Watch?**

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Consider joining such a scheme – or even starting one if there isn't one in your area. Your local community needs your help in preventing and tackling crimes like burglary. Your local Neighbourhood Police Team will be able to provide details of your local scheme.

BURGLAR ALARMS

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

- 1 **Do you have a working burglar alarm?**

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Consider improving your security with a burglar alarm. Many burglars will avoid breaking into a property with an alarm and will seek out easier properties. Find out more in the Home Office's publication entitled 'Guide to Home Security'.

- 2 **Do you set it whenever you leave, and at night when you go to bed?**

☐

Do you set it whenever you leave, and at night when you go to bed?

KEYS

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

1 Are you careful not to leave keys near a door or window?

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Leaving keys within reach of a window, glass pane or in a lock could make a thief's job easier.

2 Do you make sure you don't have spare keys hidden outside?

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Do you make sure you don't have spare keys hidden outside?

WHEN YOU ARE AWAY ON HOLIDAY

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

1 Do you ask friends to remove your post, turn on lights and open your curtains?

☐

Take a few steps when going away on holiday to appear as though you are really at home. Ask a friend to open or shut curtains, turn lights on and off and remove your post. Cancel delivery of milk and papers.

WHEN YOU GO OUT IN THE EVENING

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

1 Do you leave a light on, other than the hall light, and shut the curtains?

☐

Consider installing automatic switches to turn lights on whilst you are out in the evening and remember to shut the curtains.

SAFETY WITH PEOPLE AT THE DOOR

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

1 Do you make use of the door spy hole and security chain when you have a visitor?

☐

Take extra precautions when answering the door if you're not expecting visitors; use a spy hole or security chain, and check IDs carefully if visitors say they're from utility companies or the council.

Do you check IDs of strangers who say they are from a utility company?

INTERNAL SECURITY

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

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|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Do you have a home safe stored out of sight? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Consider installing automatic switches to turn lights on whilst you are out in the evening and remember to shut the curtains. |
| | Do you make sure you don't keep large amounts of cash at home? | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is not a good idea to keep large amounts of cash at home. |
| | Do you keep valuable property away from windows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keeping valuables out of sight and away from the windows reduces the chance of a potential burglar seeing them. |

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Tick if no:

If you have ticked the box please consider:

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|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | When you fit new windows and doors do they comply with British Standards e.g. Kitemarked? | <input type="checkbox"/> | When making improvements to your home, look for doors and windows that comply with British Standards; PAS 24 for a new doorset and BS 7950 for windows. For more information and advice contact your local police force and ask for their Crime Prevention Officer or Crime Prevention Design Officer. |
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