

How to reduce the risk of becoming a burglary victim this winter

Now that the clocks have gone back and the evenings are darker, there are a few simple steps you can take to help protect your property:

- Lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door make sure you have double locked it by lifting the handle and locking it with the key. Make sure the key is removed from the lock and out of reach.
- Think about purchasing a Video Doorbell Camera - This will send the footage of anyone approaching your home, to your mobile phone.
- Keep valuables out of sight from doors and windows.
- Remember to mark your valuables using a UV pen and register them on the national property register at www.immobilise.com.

If you are leaving the house, you can deter burglars by making your home appear occupied:

- Double check that you have locked your windows and doors before leaving.
- Light up your living room using timer switch. A TV simulator can also be used to make give the appearance of a TV screen being used.
- Invite a neighbour to park on your drive while you are away.

You can find more information on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by downloading your **FREE** Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website here: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>