

HINTS & TIPS

Helping You **"KeepSafe"** and Protect Your Assets

Home security tips whether you are going on holiday or away with work

HOME SAFETY TIPS



HOME SECURITY, ADVICE AND TIPS

Thousands of homeowners head off to enjoy relaxing breaks away in the sun each year or with work in the UK.

While you're kicking back with a cocktail by the pool and enjoying some R&R, there are thousands of homes throughout the UK unoccupied and potentially easy prey for burglars. According to the Office of National Statistics, just fewer than 8 million people were victims of property crime in England and Wales in 2012. Plus 50% of break-ins occur in unoccupied homes.

Don't make your home become a target for burglars to break in - step up home security before you head off. If you haven't got the time to have a burglar alarm fitted before you go there are some simple things you can do to help make your home safer and less likely to be the one that's targeted.

Protecting your assets®

A simple set of window blinds has been cited as one of Britain's frontline defences against burglary.

Our advice is don't have things on view and try to look as though you're in if you're out.

Window blinds are an easy way to help you achieve this. In fact research has shown that homes where items are on view are more vulnerable than those where window coverings are fitted because blinds prevent intruders from seeing what they can grab quickly.

In addition, technological advances mean that you can now buy motorised blinds that can be programmed to open and close automatically - to look as though you are in.



Hide important documents

This might sound obvious but don't leave keys or important documents near doors, windows or letterboxes and keep valuables out of sight. Hide them away in a safe place out of the reach of burglars.

Check your home insurance

Double check that your house insurance covers you for being away for long periods of time. If you have a burglar alarm fitted make sure you set it when you leave your property or simply nominate us to patrol and protect your property while you are away.

Use timers

To make your house look occupied use timers to ensure some lights come on when it's dark.



Tell the neighbours to keep an eye

Make sure your neighbours know you are away and ask them to keep an eye on the house. It's advisable to cancel post so if people are snooping and look in the letter box they don't see a big pile of letters, or at the very least ask the neighbours to remove any post protruding from your letterbox, as this is a sure giveaway that you're away! Royal mail operate a **"KeepSafe"** service whereby you pay a small and they will keep your mails for a certain period to avoid mail pile-up as this can be a tell-tail sign that your property isn't currently occupied an invitation to burglars.



Remember: Items of sentimental value are priceless and irreplaceable

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