

Thames Valley
ALERT



Police issue warning as thefts at unsecured properties make up 50 per cent of burglaries

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Message sent by

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Police in Wycombe are reminding residents to secure their homes as they begin anti-burglary patrols throughout the summer.

Of the 10 offences reported in Wycombe Local Policing Area in a 20-day period, half were committed at unsecured properties where people left a door or window unlocked.

Thames Valley Police wants to drive home the message that something so simple as locking a door and closing and securing a window, even when at home, could help prevent a burglary.

Acting Detective Inspector Sally Spencer, of Wycombe CID, said: "Historically burglaries have increased at this time of the year as residents leave their doors and windows open in the warmer weather.

"Over the past few weeks we have seen a slight increase in unsecured properties being targeted.

"Please do not present someone with the opportunity to enter your home this easily and steal your belongings. Even if you are in the garden or leaving home for a short time to collect children or go to the shop, keep your house secure."

Crime prevention advice

- Remember to lock all your doors and windows even if you are at home (make sure you know where to find the keys).
- Leave a light on when you go out. Use a timer switch - a 20 watt low energy bulb costs 2p for four hours.
- Hide all your valuables - including car keys - away from prying eyes.
- Fit outside security lighting.

- Remove all tools, ladders and other implements from your garden as these can be used to break into your property.
- Review your boundary security. Make sure your gates and fences are in good condition and that outbuildings, sheds and gates have sturdy locks.
- Be nose - report any suspicious people or vehicles in your neighbourhood. Many crimes are thwarted and people arrested after members of the public report unusual or suspicious activity to the police.
- Add up the value of all your belongings then work out how much you spend on keeping them secure.

Visit the Thames Valley Police [website](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) for more crime prevention advice.

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk]

