

WELCOME TO NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH RICHMOND UPON THAMES



Richmond upon Thames NHW is supported by
Richmond upon Thames Police and the Safer Neighbourhood Board



www.richmond.gov.uk/watches

RHP's resolution team

Helping keep our customers and the wider community safe

Who are we? | We are a specialist team committed to taking legal and non-legal action wherever possible to prevent and resolve ASB.

What do we do?

Proactively gather evidence

We utilise CCTV and sound monitoring equipment where necessary to gather evidence.

Support vulnerable customers

We work with adult and children's social care, and mental health services to signpost customers to services or opportunities which can support them best.

Remain committed to customer service

As recognition of our ongoing commitment to delivering excellent customer service we won a Customer Focus Award at the 2015 UK Customer Service Experience Awards. We demonstrated how our 'sundown' approach to resolve, not just acknowledge customer queries on the same day has led to a faster service and improved satisfaction.

Strong working partnership

We work with local authorities, the police and other agencies to prevent and solve anti-social behaviour and make sure customers are proud of their homes and feel safe.

Police: We work very closely with the local police to support our customers in managing their safety through information sharing, evidence gathering (including CCTV) and joint visits.

Fire service: We carry out joint inspections and provide advice and support to make sure customers are safe. Where hoarding behaviour creates fire hazards, we provide support and may take legal action where necessary to reduce risk.

Refuge: We work alongside Refuge to minimise the risks for our customers and their families. Refuge provides invaluable support and help for our customers who are victims of domestic abuse.

Richmond council: We work hand-in-hand with Richmond council in fraud investigations, hate crime incidents and allegations of anti-social behaviour.

Get in touch and get an answer in real time by using our web chat service at www.rhp.org.uk from 8am – 8pm, Monday – Friday. You can also send us a Tweet [@RHP_UK](https://twitter.com/RHP_UK).



[@RHP_UK](https://twitter.com/RHP_UK)



[/RichmondHousingPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/RichmondHousingPartnership)



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Welcome

Welcome to the Richmond upon Thames Neighbourhood Watch guide.

The first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was launched in the borough many years ago and was reinvigorated under the then Borough Commander Detective Chief Superintendent Rick Turner in 2006. Our Neighbourhood Watch is going from strength to strength with more than 800 watches across the borough. Richmond upon Thames has many keen and willing volunteers who work in partnership with the police and the council in their efforts to maintain as safe and crime free borough as possible. Our aim is to work with all the different groups, organisations, associations and residents to reduce crime and fear of crime and build a community with high confidence in the police. In this booklet you will meet the Richmond family who will provide many helpful tips on keeping you and your property safe. *[By kind permission of Time Business Communications]*

**Neighbourhood Watch Focus Group
c/o Police Station
London Road, Twickenham TW
NHWatchRichmond@gmail.com
@NHWatchRichmond**



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



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POLICE

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is the largest community safety organisation in the country.

- To help people protect themselves and their properties
- To reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents and by fostering a community spirit
- To develop and maintain links with the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team (SNT)



The borough's Neighbourhood Watch Association has the following stated aims and objectives:

- To support LBRuT neighbourhood Watches in their role of reducing crime and to foster community spirit of people who live and work within the borough
- To act as a forum for sharing information, experience and ideas, and spreading best practice throughout the borough watches
- To promote public participation in prevention and solution of crime
- To act a collective mouthpiece for LBRuT NH Watches and a channel of communication to the council and the police

Neighbourhood watches can be of any size or area. A Neighbourhood Watch comprises a group of neighbours who work together to prevent crime in their area. Each Watch has a clear area for which it is responsible. This may be:

- An area of several roads eg a small estate
- A complete road
- Part of a road
- A block of flats
- A group of houses
- A multi occupancy building
- Some other grouping



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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POLICE



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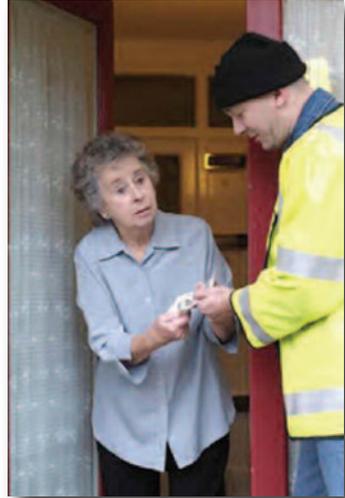
MONTHLY 'FREE TASTINGS' & 'MEET THE BREWER' EVENTS - SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

Reasons for starting/joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever and the largest voluntary organisation in the country.

Our statistics show that:

- You are less likely to be burgled if you are a member of a Watch scheme.
- Neighbourhood Watch brings communities together to tackle problems such as burglary, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime.
- Neighbourhood Watch is a great way to rekindle community spirit.
- Neighbourhood Watch encourages a sense of security amongst you and your neighbours and knowing that you are keeping an eye on each other's property gives reassurance, particularly for those who feel vulnerable.
- Police officers and Police Community Support Officers from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams work closely with Neighbourhood Watches to ensure that up to date crime prevention advice and initiatives are made available to keep your home safe.
- You may qualify for a discount on your home insurance premiums if you are a member of a registered scheme.



Beware of bogus callers



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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How do I set up or join an existing scheme?

How do I set up a scheme in my street?

In order to set up a scheme, first check if there is a scheme in your street, by contacting your local policing team or Richmond Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group. If there is no scheme in your street, we will arrange for a member of your local Safer Neighbourhood Team to contact you to discuss how to set up a scheme.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

How do I join a scheme in my street?

If there are houses in your street displaying the neighbourhood Watch Logo, then contact the householder and ask who your coordinator is. They will be very pleased to welcome you to the scheme.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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POLICE



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NPL was established in 1900 at Bushy House, Teddington, in order to 'bring scientific knowledge to bear practically upon our everyday industrial and commercial life'.

NPL has since established itself as a world-leading centre of excellence in measurement science, maintaining the nation's primary standards of measurement while developing such innovations as radar, computer network packet switching and, more recently, the world's first room-temperature maser.

Today NPL remains true to its core mission. NPL's science helps to save lives, protect the environment and enable citizens to feel safe and secure, as well as supporting international trade and innovation in the commercial world.



www.npl.co.uk

Requirements for setting up a scheme

Find out who in the street would like to join. Your local Safer Neighbourhood team will help you contact your neighbours to find out who is interested. You will be given information sheets for your neighbours and you might like to set up a meeting, for everyone who has said that they are interested. This is a chance for residents to get to know each other. Depending on how many residents are interested, this could be arranged in one of the houses or at a local coffee shop. At the meeting will be one of the Neighbourhood Watch Team members and your local PCSO to explain all aspect of Neighbourhood Watch and how it works, along with all the support each scheme can expect from the Steering Group and Police.

Before we can register your scheme, we must have at least one resident to act as the co-ordinator.

The coordinator is the main link with the local policing team and Richmond upon Thames Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group. Once the scheme has been registered, signs will be put onto the lampposts in your street and every member will be given a Welcome Pack which includes information on Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention along with the window stickers.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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POLICE



The child first and always

Find out more about the work
of the charity and the hospital at
www.gosh.org

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If you are interested in joining a NHWatch Scheme either as a member or as a coordinator please complete the form below. If you would like more information first, then please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood team, or email NHWatchRichmond@gmail.com who will advise.

Please Complete the form below and return to NHWatch Focus Group, c/o Police Station, London Road, Twickenham

Please Complete this form to register

Your information will not be shared with anyone, without your permission, other than the MPS and the NHW administration in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

First Name

Last Name

Address

Postcode

Contact numbers

Daytime

Evening

Mobile

Email



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Falcons



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BOYS



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24th September 2016
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8th October 2016

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Address: Hampton High
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Hampton, TW12 3HB

Phone: 0208 979 3399
Facebook: [HamptonHigh](https://www.facebook.com/HamptonHigh)
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**London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Community Safety Partnership**

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Bicycle Theft



How safe is your cycle?



Make sure your bikes are securely locked away

'Keeping crime out of our borough'



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH





St James's
Catholic Primary School

Clare Webber – Head teacher

St James's has an established reputation for providing an outstanding education, based on the values of living life through Christ.

We are a vibrant community, serving four parishes and our curriculum provision is rich and diverse. Our children have a vast array of excellent opportunities not only academically but in art, drama, music and sport.

Our school motto is "Put out into the deep" – all pupils and those involved in their education are encouraged to contribute to the life of the school and those wider communities to which we belong.



St James's Catholic Primary School
260 Stanley Road, Twickenham, Middx TW2 5NP
Tel: 020 8898 4670 · Email: info@st-james.richmond.sch.uk
www.st-james.richmond.sch.uk

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Security tips for your cycles

Follow our simple crime prevention tips and keep your bicycle safe from theft

With increasing numbers of us owning bicycles, it's important to know how to keep them safe. Especially as more of us are being encouraged to take up cycling both to improve our health and as an alternative form of transport to reduce congestion and emissions. Hundreds of thousands of bikes are stolen each year in England and Wales.

Help keep your bike secure by following some simple tips.

Protect your possessions

- 1 Take out insurance, either by extending your home contents insurance or through a separate policy; cycling organisations and bike shops may offer specialist cover
- 2 Record and register your bike. Richmond police and community safety partnership offer free cycle security marking using Bikeregister.com

At home

- 3 More than half of all bicycle thefts take place from an owner's property
- 4 Keep your bike in a secure garage or shed and keep the door locked
- 5 Keep it out of public view

Out and about

- 6 Always lock your bicycle, even if you are just leaving it for a couple of minutes
- 7 Avoid isolated places; leave your bike where it can be seen
- 8 Hardened steel D-shaped locks are recommended as the minimum lock standard; check out **Sold Secure** for certified locks, or ask your local bike shop
- 9 Lock your bike to an immovable object - a bike rack or ground anchors; thieves can remove drainpipes and lift bikes off signposts
- 10 Make the lock and bike hard to manoeuvre when parked - stop thieves smashing it open by keeping the lock away from the ground; keep the gap between bike and lock small
- 11 Secure removable parts; lock both wheels and the frame together

Learn more

- 12 If you think you are being offered a stolen bike, ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or the police non emergency number 101

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For more advice, visit www.met.police.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH





Newland House School

Independent Preparatory Day School
for Girls and Boys from 4 to 13 years



Welcome Events

11 November
9 December

Call now to confirm your place or to arrange an individual tour of the Pre-Prep or Prep School

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Additional places available in Reception from 2016 onwards

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Year 3 2017 entry via 7+

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Newland House School, Waldegrave Park, Twickenham TW1 4TQ

A Learning Environment to Inspire

This September, Newland House School opened a new Pre-Prep School on the site immediately next door to the Prep School on Waldegrave Park in Twickenham. The new building provides a highly sustainable educational environment, which has been built sympathetically to the neighbouring architecture and utilises leading design alongside contemporary materials. The spacious classrooms have provided children with an innovative and unique learning atmosphere and they benefit from the latest technology.

Newland House is an experienced Prep School for girls and boys from ages 4 to 13 years. The school has an extensive, engaging curriculum, which fosters a sense of self-confidence and provides opportunities for children to reach their full potential by encouraging learning at a comfortable and appropriate pace. Pupils have excellent academic outcomes, gaining scholarships and awards at top senior schools and The Independent Schools Inspectorate affirms that 'Throughout the school, the quality of the pupils' achievements and learning is excellent.'

Traditional standards are very important and exceptional pastoral provision supports individual development and a strong sense of community. The school is non-selective in Reception or children may join in Year 3 via an annual 7+ assessment. Prospective parents are invited to visit the school to tour the new school.

Please call admissions on 020 8865 1305 or visit www.newlandhouse.net.



Teddington School

Teddington School is a mixed community comprehensive school dedicated to serving our locality. We believe that

- Learning is at the centre of everything we do; it creates opportunity and empowers us all to reach our potential
- Every person can succeed; together we put the right things in place at the right time and in the right way
- Effort, commitment and care are important; through these we can serve and enhance our school and community.



Visitors to our School notice how proud the students and staff are of their school. They notice how well the students behave in this very friendly and high achieving school and how smart they appear in their distinctive uniform.

Teddington School are happy to support Official Richmond upon Thames Neighbourhood Watch.

Broom Road, Teddington TW11 9PJ

020 8943 0033 · info@teddingtonschool.org

www.teddingtonschool.org



Holy Trinity CE
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Outstanding School!

Congratulations to Holy Trinity School which has just been judged Outstanding in its recent Ofsted inspection. The inspection covers leadership, management, quality of teaching, behaviour, safety and the achievement of pupils. A huge well done!



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020 8940 2730

info@holytrinity.richmond.sch.uk
www.holytrinityschool.org.uk

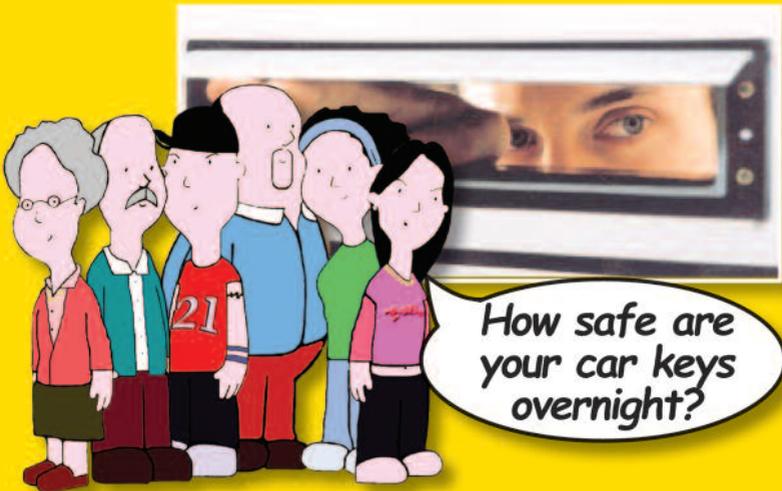
Fishing for car keys

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Community Safety Partnership

Supporting you...

Introducing the Richmonds

Fishing for car keys



This type of offence has become a trend over recent years, mainly because modern cars are very difficult to steal without the car keys. Burglars intent on stealing the car, which is usually on view in the driveway, will attempt to break into homes looking for car keys.

'Keeping crime out of our borough'



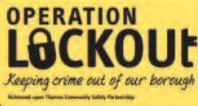
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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POLICE



Security tips for your car

Burglaries involving desirable/high value vehicles

One method is to peer through the letterbox and see if the keys have been left within easy reach. It has been known for the thieves to fish for the keys using implements poked through the letterbox and implements have been used in the same manner to hook onto internal door handles which have not been deadlocked and gain entry into the house.

Below is some advice to reduce the risk of this type of offence occurring:

- 1 If possible garage your car over night.
- 2 If you have a burglar alarm, zone the downstairs area overnight.
- 3 If you do not have a burglar alarm consider installing one.
- 4 Keep your house and car keys in separate places.
- 5 Leave your car keys in less obvious areas, out of sight.
- 6 Keep your doors locked even when you are at home. Use the mortice deadlock or, on PVC-U or other enhanced security doors, the fully or double-locked mode especially at night. The majority of the PVC-U type doors are not fully secure unless double locked with the key. If you remove the door keys always have a fire escape plan.
- 7 Be vigilant for people behaving suspiciously around you or your neighbour's homes.
- 8 Avoid confrontations with offenders.
- 9 Consider protecting the side of your premises with fencing and locked gates.
- 10 Please contact your local Crime Prevention Officer for advice concerning additional vehicle security, i.e. immobilisers and driveway alarms as security needs differ.
- 11 Contact the Crime Prevention Officers for advice regarding double-glazing as occasionally the method of entry is by releasing external beading.
- 12 Consider fitting an internal letterbox restrictor.
- 13 Open doors and windows are open invitations.

For more advice, visit www.met.police.uk



Secure your vehicle

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Community Safety Partnership

Supporting you...

Introducing the Richmonds



Secure your vehicle

'Keeping crime out of our borough'



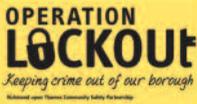
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Secure your vehicle



Security tips for your car

Vehicle security and damage

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership are working towards reducing motor vehicle crime but we need you to help us by:

- 1 Thatcham approved alarms and immobilisers are an excellent deterrent.
- 2 Don't leave anything on display - it's a prime invitation to passers-by. Even an old coat or plastic bag can tempt a thief. If items have to be left in the vehicle, put them out of sight at the start of your journey.
- 3 Portable 'sat-nav' systems are often held in a cradle attached to the windscreen or dashboard on full view, so take it out of the vehicle and place the cradle out of sight in the boot.
- 4 Cradles alone indicate to offenders that vehicles have 'sat-nav' systems, so ensure that you remove all traces by wiping off the suction marks from the windscreen.
- 5 Property mark the 'sat-nav' with your postcode and house name or number. Make a note of the make, model and serial number and register it free of charge on the National Property Register at www.immobilise.com.
- 6 Get a music system that's removable or has a front that can be taken off.
- 7 Driving documents and personal correspondence could help a thief to sell your vehicle or provide a cover story if stopped by the police - don't keep them in the vehicle.
- 8 Some thieves break into houses to steal vehicle keys. Always keep the keys in a safe place. Don't leave them in the hallway or kitchen, as these are the obvious places a thief will look.
- 9 Alloy wheels should be secured with locking wheel nuts, which have been tested to withstand attack and meet Category 4 Thatcham approval.
- 10 Steering wheel locks, which have been tested to withstand attack and meet Category 3 Thatcham approval, should be applied every time you leave your vehicle.
- 11 Number plates can be secured with one-way security screws, to prevent them being removed and used in crime. Also available is a new type of anti-theft plate which is bonded on and breaks up when tampered with.
- 12 If you have a garage at home, use it. If you don't, try to park in a well lit open place.
- 13 Look for public car parks that are part of the police approved 'Park Mark' Safer Parking Scheme.
- 14 Always lock and close - doors, windows, boots, and sunroofs before leaving the car and make sure you use all security devices fitted.

Please ensure you report any damage or anything unusual you see in your road to the police, if it is happening or you feel threatened on **999** or on the non-emergency number **101** after the event.

Keeping your car and contents safe is simple so let's not make a criminals life easy. Most criminals can be easily outsmarted by taking simple steps to secure your car.

Let's not give criminals an easy ride

For more advice, visit www.met.police.uk



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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LICE

POLICE

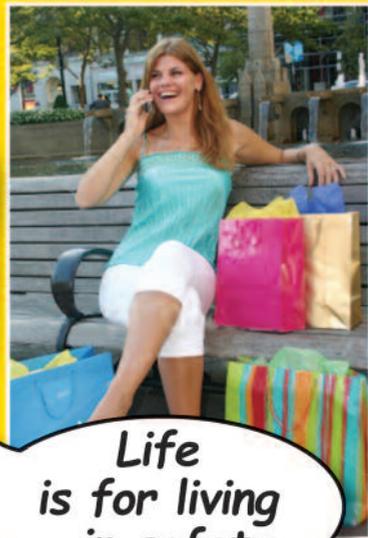
Taking care out and about

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Community Safety Partnership

Supporting you...

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Take care
when
out
and
about



Life
is for living
- in safety

'Keeping crime out of our borough'



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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LICE

POLICE

OPERATION LOCKOUT

Keeping crime out of our borough
Metrobank - open Spaces Community Safety Partnership

Personal Safety

We all like to go out and enjoy ourselves, however in today's society we need to be aware of our own personal safety.

Here are some tips, which are given in an effort to reduce the risk of you becoming a victim of crime.

- 1 Prepare - think about how you're going to get there and back and remember to tell someone where you're going, who you're going with and when you expect to return.
- 2 Look confident - remember your body language - stand tall and look like you know where you're going. Carry a personal safety alarm and learn how to use it. Also carry emergency phone numbers (including the numbers to cancel your credit cards), some change, a phone card and your keys in a safe pocket.
- 3 Avoid risks and be aware - keep looking and listening to what's happening around you. Try not to change plans at the last minute, but if you have to, tell someone.
- 4 Never take safety for granted - don't say to yourself "it only happens to other people," "it's only a short journey" or "they look honest." Trust your instincts - if you feel that something is wrong, it makes sense to avoid it.
- 5 Avoid short cuts through dark places. Keep away from odd and out-of-the-way places whenever you can.
- 6 Cross the road if you see people you don't feel comfortable about and be aware of who's around you when you're out and about.
- 7 Walk in the middle of the pavement facing the traffic, so that cars can't follow you.
- 8 Mobile phones, MP3 players and laptops are attractive to thieves, so be careful where you use them and be aware of what's happening around you if you are using them.
- 9 Cover up expensive looking jewellery and wear your bag across your body, so that it opens on the side facing you. In winter, wear your coat over your bag to hide it. You're an easy target if you leave your bag facing backwards over your shoulder or carry it over one shoulder.
- 10 If you use a wheelchair or motorised scooter, keep your handbag in front of you, rather than hanging it on the back of the chair where thieves can steal it.
- 11 If somebody does try to take your bag, let it go and don't fight to keep it, you're less likely to be hurt.

Don't forget as the Suzy Lamplugh Trust says

"Life is for living - in safety"

For more advice, visit www.met.police.uk



Get the lived in look



London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Community Safety Partnership

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Don't be
the next burglary
victim



Get the
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'Keeping crime out of our borough'



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Get the lived in look



Security tips for your home

There have recently been burglaries in your area.
Prevent yourself from becoming the next victim.

Get the lived-in look

When you go out make your home look lived-in

- 1 Leave a radio or television on, or side table lights when it is dark, so that while you are out any potential burglar will hear a noise or see a light and be deterred. Use a timer switch to set and control times if necessary.

Secure your valuables

- 1 A safe securely fixed to a solid wall and/or floor reduces the likelihood of important documents, valuables and sentimental items being stolen.
- 2 Property marking and photographing valuables and sentimental items will help to deter burglars and assist police to return them to their rightful owners if they are stolen.

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How safe are your tools and cycles

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Why should a thief carry tools if you can supply them?

How safe are your tools and cycles in your shed?



Make sure all your tools and bikes are securely locked away

'Keeping crime out of our borough'



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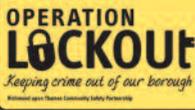
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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POLICE

POLICE

How safe are your tools and cycles



Security tips for your home

Burglaries to garden sheds and garages

Consider for a moment what you store in your shed or garage and take a look at the lock, the door and even the quality of the building. How many of us even bother to lock the shed door?

These sometimes-flimsy outbuildings are usually full of expensive power tools and gardening equipment including petrol mowers and hedge trimmers worth hundreds of pounds and easily sold on by the thief. Even a few inexpensive tools left in your shed could cost you a small fortune.

Why should a thief carry tools to break into your house when you can supply them?

- 1 Strengthen shed and other outbuilding doors where possible and consider replacing screws to exposed hinges with coach bolts. If a padlock has been fitted strengthen the areas around the hasp and staple and secure them with coach bolts. External hinge screws should be replaced with one-way clutch head screws to prevent them being removed and access gained this way.
- 2 Inexpensive shed and garage stand-alone alarms are now available from the larger DIY stores and dedicated alarm suppliers. If you currently have an intruder alarm covering your house consider extending the system to your garage or shed.
- 3 Take a close look at your garage door. Where a separate access door exists a simple method of securing up and over doors from the inside is to drill a hole through the runner and insert a padlock through the hole to prevent the door from being forced up. Numerous purpose made locks are also available to secure the different types of garage door.
- 4 Don't forget to secure any connecting doors from the garage to your house. Once in the garage the burglar can spend as long as he wishes forcing the door safe in the knowledge that he can't be seen and any noise he makes is muffled. Treat this door as any external door, secure it with at least a BS 3621 mortice deadlock and consider mortice bolts located at the top and bottom of the door. If the door opens outwards it is advised to fit hinge bolts. Always have a fire escape plan in case of emergency.
- 5 Side access to homes are very important it is advised that you have non climbable gates and fencing to a minimum of 1.8m high fitted with a lock or padlock, as close to the front building line as possible.
- 6 Lock away your gardening tools; if they are left insecure they could be stolen or used to gain entry to your house.
- 7 Keep ladders locked away or chained up.
- 8 Keep garden fences in good repair and consider having trellising on the top.
- 9 Garage and shed windows can be secured with internal diamond mesh grilles, which provide a good visual deterrent to opportunist burglary.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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POLICE

POLICE

GET SHEDUCATED

It's not only green fingered people who are interested in your garden

SHEDS AND OTHER SMALL BUILDINGS

Many people take a great deal of trouble securing their house and the property within it. At the same time leaving valuable property in a shed which is either unlocked or so old and run down as to prove no obstacle whatsoever to the thief.



Ensure that your shed is in a good condition to stand up to a security test. If not take steps to improve it or don't leave valuable items, such as a lawn mower inside.

- Fit a good lock on the shed door. A little expense can be money well spent and may help with insurance claims later if the worst does happen. The fittings should be bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The hasp should have concealed screws.
- The padlock itself should be not less than 2.5 inches in width and made of hardened steel. The lock should have no less than five pins. A closed shackle type will reduce the risk of the lock being forced. Any locksmith or good DIY shop will advise you on the strongest available. If you already have a small padlock, change it now – it could save you time and money in the future.
- Fit any windows with a grille fixed to steel plates inside the shed. Remember, it is no good securing the door if the windows are an easy target. At the very least consider fitting reinforced glass or impact value acrylic and a good lock if the window opens.

Fitting a simple, low cost, battery operated shed alarm, or personal alarm, to the door of your shed or garage will warn of any attempted intrusion to your property and will stop the thief in his tracks. Much of this advice should also be applied to a garage if you have one.

BICYCLES

Many people are careful about securing their bikes when left unattended on the street. However more cycles are stolen from sheds and garages than from the street. If you leave one or more bicycles in your shed, padlock them to the fabric of the building or together to make them much harder to steal. If the cycles are of high value, than a ground anchor should be considered. Register all bicycles at www.bikeregister.com.



Sheduction



PROPERTY

Gardening tools and furniture are not cheap, what's more they are very saleable items for the thief. Don't make it easy to steal them and remember that tools stolen from your shed could be used to burgle your house.

- Property mark or postcode all property such as bikes, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and garden furniture.
- Postcoding can be done with ultra-violet marker pens, engraving, stamping or even paint. Also there are now liquid forensic coding systems which can be purchased easily.
- Take photographs of any valuable garden ornaments. If they are stolen, police can circulate the photo to dealers who can then look out for your property.
- Never leave items unattended, especially valuable ones, even if you are just popping into the house – remember you may be gone for a minute but they may be gone forever.



A little bit of effort can save a lot of grief.

OUTDOORS

Not only should your property be secure but you can also make it difficult for the thief to get to it.

A low cost security measure are lights fitted with sodium tubes which come on when it gets dark and turn themselves off when it gets light – they cost less than 1p a night to run! This is especially important in dark areas of your garden. Don't under-estimate the effect of good lighting as a crime prevention measure.

Keep shrub, hedges and large plants cut back, they can provide a screen for thieves to work behind. Check your boundary fences, walls and gates. Keep them in good repair as they do provide a useful barrier to the would-be-thief. The harder it is for him to get in, the more suspicious his actions look to others.

Get your neighbours to always keep an eye on your garden at all times day and night. You can do the same for them. Report anything suspicious to the police as soon as possible. Remember – it's not being nosy, it's being sensible.

A thick gravel path makes it impossible for the thief to approach without making a noise and is a good crime reduction alternative to slabs or monoblock.

GET SHEDUCATED AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH





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