

KENT POLICE

Protect your property this winter

As the evenings start to become longer Kent Police is reminding home owners to take simple crime prevention steps to keep their properties secure.

With residents leaving their homes throughout the winter months to attend festive events, such as Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas there is typically a spike in burglary reports across the county.

To combat this rise Kent Police is launching its annual campaign to help prevent burglaries and target those responsible.

Officers will be taking a proactive approach throughout the course of the campaign and will continue to advise home owners of the simple steps they can take to protect their properties.

Detective Superintendent Jon Armory from Kent Police said: "Preventing burglaries and bringing offenders to justice is a top priority throughout the year for Kent Police. However, we have historically seen an increase in reports during the weeks between Halloween and Christmas.

"Our focus is on catching and convicting offenders whilst encouraging people to take simple crime prevention steps to keep their properties secure.

"Most burglaries are opportunistic and often just by making your home look occupied by using time switches on lights is enough to prevent a burglar targeting a property.

"Burglary is a terrible crime that can leave victims feeling scared and anxious long after the offences have taken place and we want to do all we can to make this even less likely to occur."

How to protect your home:

- Ensure doors and windows are secure before leaving your property
- Keep keys, cash and expensive items out of view
- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make your home look occupied
- Keep gates locked and boundaries secure
- Lock away bikes, tools and garden items that could be stolen or used to break into your home

You can also:

- Security-mark items including bicycles, smartphones and laptops

- Keep receipts and serial numbers safe
- Photograph and insure expensive or unique items
- Register important items for free at www.immobolise.com. This can help us return them to you if they are stolen and then recovered.

Stock :

If you require more Neighbourhood Watch stock, i.e. NHW roundels, No Cold Caller Stickers , NHW Members Guides, Stay Safe booklets or wish to purchase any shed alarms (£5) please speak to your scheme coordinator or contact me in the NHW Office at Ashford Police Station. Purse bells and contactless card protectors are still available at Ashford Front counter for £1 each.

Stay Safe this Autumn and Winter