



ROCHFORD DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD

# Watch News



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

Summer 2021

## Summer's here but that doesn't mean you can relax on security

JUST because it's the summer and your area may have one of the lowest rates of burglaries, remember criminals do not take seasonal holidays.

Police say thefts can increase during the summer months as thieves gain access to properties through insecure doors and windows.

According to a recent Crime Survey for England and Wales, burglars got inside homes through an unlocked door 21 per cent of the time and through an open window 11 per cent of the time.

Officers say locking windows and doors, making sure all valuables are out of sight and tidying away tools, can significantly reduce the chances of a home being broken into.

### These are the ten steps to improve home security this summer

- \* **Keep them out of view:** Make sure all valuables and keys, including car keys, are out of sight and away from the view of windows and the letterbox – remember a device could be used to hook keys through the letterbox.
- \* **Keep them locked:** Leaving ground floor windows, doors and patio doors open in the summer can give burglars the perfect opportunity. If you are upstairs, out of the room, or in the garden, even just for a few minutes, keep them locked and help shut burglars out.
- \* **Pay attention:** Pay attention when you're outside in your garden, as you may not be able to see or hear someone entering your home.
- \* **Tidy away tools:** Ensure sheds, garages and

outbuildings are locked and secure at all times – tidy away power tools and garden equipment after using them, don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.

- \* **Burglar-proof your bikes:** Secure bikes at home by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage.
- \* **Check access to windows:** Burglars often target windows as they offer easier access than doors. Take a good look at your windows from the outside and remove potential access points where you can. Are there walls, bins or garden furniture that could be used to reach windows?
- \* **Give burglars nowhere to hide:** Burglars don't want to be seen or heard and if they think they'll be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by, they'll probably move on. Cut back hedges at the front of your property to allow for a clear view and don't provide cover for anyone wishing to hide and make sure your security lights are working.
- \* **Gates and fences:** Make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition, especially rear fencing and ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property.
- \* **Going away or on holiday?** Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property and leave radios or lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied.
- \* **Property marking:** Mark or photograph your property.



### Help police to catch criminals

NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch have been asked to help Essex Police with an initiative to improve crime prevention and detection in areas that have poor coverage of local authority CCTV. The idea is to set up a register of independent CCTV systems/cameras on doorbells/pet monitoring cameras etc in the Rochford District. This could then be utilised by the police when investigating a crime in a particular area.

If you would support such an initiative get in touch via email at [rochford.district.nhw@essex.police.uk](mailto:rochford.district.nhw@essex.police.uk). If you do not wish to support this initiative we would be grateful for your reasons.

There are no hidden agendas, we are just trying to make Rochford District a safer place and if successful the proposal could then be rolled out Essex-wide.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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