

Summer nights

Before you turn in for the night do the “rounds” some may think it is a bit over the top, but you will feel more confident and not become a victim of “the one time I forgot to shut the window.....”

Check the simple things:-

1. Cars on the drive? – are the windows shut and doors locked (don’t assume that by pressing the button on the remote it is locked, try the handle too)? Remove valuables from sight. It is worth parking the least expensive car in front of the more expensive one.
2. Side gate shut and locked, sheds and garages secure?
3. Doors closed and locked, don’t forget on that UPVC multi-locking door - you may have lifted the handle but until you turn the key on the inside you have not locked all the locks in place.
4. Don’t forget to check that patio door, someone may have closed it but did they lock it?
5. Windows, lift the blinds or open the curtains and check them, the sun may have been on the TV so they were drawn with the window open because it was hot. Ensure all accessible windows are closed and locked, if you live in a bungalow or have flat roofs in unoccupied rooms keep the windows closed and locked but if you need a window open for ventilation in occupied rooms lock the big window and just have the small one open. If you only have bigger windows consider a lockable window restrictor or a small alarm sensor on the window to detect entry.
6. Check unnecessary appliances are turned off, and make sure in case of fire that keys are readily accessible to occupants but not in view of possible burglars.
7. If you have an alarm, activate the zone for the unoccupied area.
8. Car keys, don’t take them to bed with you, where possible leave them in noisy drawer/location (if you don’t have an alarm, consider a shed alarm to cover that specific area).
9. If you do hear a suspicious noise in the house that you are not happy with dial 999, if you have an intruder remember your life is more important than your property, but do get a good description and if possible car index number.

One Last piece of advice if you are going on holiday? Stop the milk and newspaper deliveries and look after each other, get a neighbour and/or friend to keep an eye on your property, ensure neighbours have contact numbers for a key holder and where possible let them park their car on your drive. Basically if you create the illusion that your house is occupied it is less likely to be broken into.



The 24 hour Non Emergency number for Essex Police is 101