

## **Autumn Crime Prevention Advice - 25.09.18**

Make sure doors and windows are locked, particularly when leaving the house. It's easy to leave your front door or windows unlocked, especially when you're in a hurry or distracted. But even if you only do it once, that could be enough to get burgled. Most burglars are opportunistic - they look for an easy way to get in that won't take long or arouse suspicion, so many try the front door first.

- Look like you are in when you are out. Timer switches can be fitted to operate radios and lights when you are out.
- Make sure you close curtains or blinds to prevent potential thieves seeing into your home.
- Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice.
- Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat or in a flowerpot.
- Marked property can deter burglars because it is harder for a thief to sell on and may also help police secure a conviction.
- Consider joining or starting a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Register your property at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Burglary, on the whole, is an opportunist crime. A burglar will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. A building that presents itself as unoccupied and insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured.

### **Help Us Keep Sussex Safe**

Seen something suspicious or have information about a crime or incident? Please contact us online, email us at [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or call 101.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)