

# NORTHUMBRIA POLICE



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Policing*

NORTHUMBERLAND AREA COMMAND

## Home Security Advice

One of the most feared crimes is burglary, but by taking some relatively simple and inexpensive steps you can help to prevent yourself from becoming a victim. Most domestic burglaries are committed by “opportunists”. The criminal picks a house that looks unoccupied, has little or no obvious security and where they think they won't be seen.

### Home Security Assessment

By working through this simple checklist you will be able to identify where you need to take some action. When carrying out remedial action you should start from the outside furthest point of your property and work inwards, we call it the “Onion Peeling Method”. This is the way the burglar sees your property.

Tick the appropriate answer to the following questions. Where you tick “NO” you should consider taking steps to reduce the risks, (some of the questions may not apply to your type of property. If this is the case then just tick N/A - not applicable).

### REMEMBER

When considering any home security measures you must always give priority to fire escape needs

<b>PERIMETER</b>	YES	NO	N/A
Is your front fence, wall or hedge, low enough to allow passers-by a clear view of the front of your home?			
Do you have a rear fence/wall or hedge? Would a fit person find it difficult to climb over your rear fence? (Consider a trellis topping to a fence/wall or planting prickly hedge).			

<b>GARDEN</b>	YES	NO	N/A
If you have a gate leading from the front of your home to the rear garden is it locked?			
If you have a garden shed is it kept locked with good locks at the top and bottom of the door?			
Are shed windows covered with a net curtain or similar so you cannot see in?			
Have you removed any tools or scrap materials from your garden, which may assist a burglar, break in?			
Are any valuable plants or ornaments post-coded or photographed?			

<b>THE SHELL</b>	YES	NO	N/A
Do you have external lighting round the whole exterior of the home?			
Is your exterior lighting activated by a day/night sensor?			
Do you have lighting covering the front and back doors?			
Are your doors fitted with at least 5 lever mortise locks that have the BS. 3621 Kite mark on, or a multi- point locking system?			
If you are not able to fit in a 5 -lever mortise lock are your rim locks (Yale type) fitted with a deadlock facility?			
Is any glass in doors or adjacent to doors laminated glass?			
Do you have a door chain/door bar fitted to the main door? (For fire safety reasons these should only be used when answering the door)			
Do you have a door viewer fitted?			
Do you have window locks on all opening ground floor windows and upper floor windows that are accessible (except those needed for fire escape)?			
Are any patio doors fitted with anti-lift devices?			
If you have a connecting door between your garage and your home is it of solid construction and fitting with BS 3621 locks and mortised security bolts?			
Do you have an alarm fitted?			

	YES	NO	N/A
<b>INTERNAL</b>			
Have you post-coded your property? (Postcode + number or first two letters of your house name)			
Have you recorded the serial numbers of electrical/electronic equipment?			
Have you taken photographs or video of your jewellery, arts and antiques?			
Do you have a safe fitted?			
Are your home's contents insured and listed?			
Have you fitted smoke alarms?			
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	YES	NO	N/A
Are you were a member of a neighbourhood watch or home watch scheme?			
Do you park your car in a garage?			
Is the car's audio equipment post-coded?			
Are any pedal cycles post coded?			
Are any garden tools or power tools post-coded?			
Are the tools secured in your garage or shed?			
Do you and your neighbours look after each other's property when away?			
Do you have someone to act as a key holder for you when you are out?			

If you are considering having an alarm fitted to your premises we would recommend that you obtain quotes from Inspectorate Approved Installers who are members of NSI (National Security Inspectorate - formerly known as NACOSS) or SSAIB (Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board).

Details available on their websites: [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk) and [www.saib.org.uk](http://www.saib.org.uk)

Advice on home security is available in the booklet "A guide to home security" available from all police stations. More detailed advice can be found on website [www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

Advice is also available from your local Crime Prevention Officer by phoning 01661 863595.

Phone 01661 863581 and ask for the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator if you want details on joining a neighbourhood watch scheme or look on the Internet. [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwatch](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwatch) .

**Local Police Officers: PC Andy Clark and PC Paul Temple**

**Emergency Response: Dial 999**

**Non Emergency Response: Tel: 03456 043043 Text: 07786200814**