

# Keep a light on

Why let burglars know you're not home? If you go out after dark, leave a light on and draw the curtains.

**stay secure**

**Don't make it easy for burglars – check the essential home security tips overleaf.**

## Keep your home secure this winter

- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either upstairs or in a room that cannot be peered into from the road. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Put a time switch on a radio tuned in to a chat station, giving the impression that the house is occupied. Again, regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Fit security lighting – either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or infrared activated lighting which draws attention to movement.
- Ensure that doors and windows to the rear of the house are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed – your tools can be used to break in.
- Trim overgrown plants – don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Secure your windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roofs. Use locks and bolts and keep all your keys, including car keys, out of sight and out of reach.
- Property mark your valuables with your postcode and your house number or name. Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them – with a ruler in view to show scale.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system seek advice to ensure it is the most suitable for your needs.

## The best defence against burglary is prevention.

For more advice on crime prevention visit [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) or phone **101** and ask for your local Crime Prevention Officer. In an emergency, or if you see a crime in progress, always dial **999**.

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