

Dear Householder

House Burglary – Crime Prevention Advice

I have taken this opportunity to write to you at this time of year as we traditionally see an increase in house burglary that corresponds with it getting darker earlier. We typically find house burglaries happen during the daytime when householders are out. Houses are more easily identified as empty if they are in darkness in the late afternoon so a light on a timer may be a simple but effective measure.

As an additional warning some Euro Lock Cylinders that are now widely fitted to most replacement doors and patio windows have been found to be vulnerable to 'bumping'. A key in design similar to the original is tapped and turned in the lock disrupting the internal mechanism and opening the lock without any external evidence or subsequent damage. Lock cylinders that protrude from the face of the door are also more at risk of being forced by a Euro lock breaker. Upgrades and lock treatments are available to make them more resilient to these types of attack. ***Anti bump and anti snap locks have a cylinder certificated to BS EN 1303 grade 5 and lock certificated to BS 3621:2007, BS 8621:2007 or BS 10621: 2007***

I would encourage you and your neighbours if not already a member, to consider joining a local neighbourhood watch scheme or starting your own. We have an excellent community alert scheme that supports NHW and its 6,000 members. The collective protection offered by such schemes with visible signage across the county has been a principal contributor to the 25% reduction in this type of offence over the last 5 years. (2006/7 – 2010/11) The Force Watch Co-ordinator can be contacted on 01926 684286 or email watch@warwickshire.police.uk

If you would like to contact a Crime Prevention Specialist for further free and independent advice - their email/telephone numbers shown below.

Yours faithfully

George Stepney
Community Protection Manager

Crime Prevention Specialists

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