

Crime Prevention Booklet



Read our Burglary prevention checklist and more!

Burglary

Want to protect your home? Think WIDE(N): Windows, Interior, Doors, Exterior and Neighbours, to have the best possible protection against burglary.



Research shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security. A combination of WIDE actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary.

- **Windows: Lock your windows**
- **Interior: Put your interior lights on a timer**
- **Doors: Double lock your doors**
- **Exterior: Put your exterior lights on a sensor**
- **(N)eighbours: Keep an eye out for your neighbours**

Taking simple measures can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled. Opportunity plays a big role in enabling crimes to be committed, particularly burglaries. Most domestic burglaries are committed by opportunists.

Criminals will look for homes that:

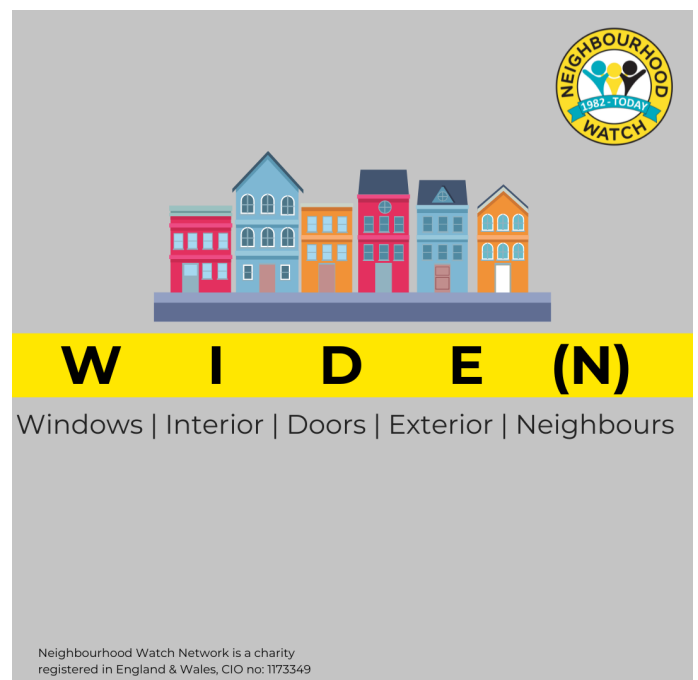
- seem unoccupied
- have little or no apparent security
- have doors or windows left open, or
- where they think they won't be seen.

ourwatch.org.uk/burglary-WIDEN

One crime often produces the opportunity to commit another. For example, a burglar may return after a break-in because they know the owners are likely to be out. They can also expect the property to be full of new replacement items.

Before upgrading your home security, think about what part of your home seems more vulnerable, how often you are at home, and when it is empty.

Remember, when possible, to always ensure that security products you purchase are Secured by Design or Sold Secure - these are good quality, independently tested products.



Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)



Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).

Recognising ASB

Recognising what ASB is and what ASB isn't can be difficult. What constitutes ASB is extremely subjective and whilst we have examples of behaviour, what you may consider to be antisocial behaviour another person may not.

ASB is a range of behaviours that can cause nuisance and annoyance or harm and distress to a person in their home, neighbourhood or community. It is a wide range of unacceptable activities such as:

- **Noise nuisance** including loud music, banging, DIY at unsocial hours or loud parties
- **Household disputes** including shouting, swearing and fighting
- **Harassment and intimidation** including intimidation through threats or actual violence, abusive behaviour aimed at causing distress to certain people, e.g. the elderly
- **Environmental ASB** including dumping rubbish, animal nuisance, including dog fouling and dogs barking, vandalism, property damage and more.

Recording ASB

It is important to keep a record of the incidents and the behaviours as this will be of great help in investigating the behaviour and tackling it. It can also help you to get some perspective on how often it happens. If you decide to take formal action at some stage, it can help others see an established pattern of nuisance over time.

Download and use our ASB diary (from ourwatch.org.uk/ASB) to record events over a period of 14 continuous days. You can ask someone else (a neighbour or visitor) who witnesses the nuisance to sign the entry in the "names & addresses of any witnesses" column.

Return your completed diary to your ASB team at your local authority if you live in private accommodation. If you live in a local authority or housing association property, return it to your housing officer.

Reporting ASB

Antisocial behaviour can ruin lives and devastate communities. Reporting antisocial behaviour early on is important to prevent it from escalating.

The local authority, social housing landlords, and the police all have powers to deal with antisocial behaviour. It is important that when reporting antisocial behaviour to your local authority, police or housing provider, you demonstrate the impact that it is having on your health and wellbeing.

**SAY NO
TO ASB**



ourwatch.org.uk/asb

Cybercrime and online scams



Protect your Pa\$\$w0rd



Protect your Pa\$\$W0rds in 3 simple steps...

There is a sea of information out there around how to best protect yourself online, and we all know the horror stories of hacking, online scams and identity theft.

But what are the quickest, most important things for you to do today to ensure it doesn't happen to you?

1. Create a separate password for your email account(s)
2. Use 3 random words
3. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

Following these three steps isn't complicated, and will help ensure you build strong, secure passwords to protect your digital data and devices.



ourwatch.org.uk/passwords

Trust your instincts when it comes to scams

Scams and fraud can affect everyone – there are several ways you can protect yourself from becoming a victim of these crimes, and it is important to follow new and emerging advice as these crimes become more sophisticated and harder to spot.

We encourage you to trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, or you receive an unexpected message – trust your instincts and double check. We want to raise awareness of the tactics scammers use to lure you in, and to help you spot if something doesn't look, feel, sound or seem right.



#TRUSTYOURINSTINCTS



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

STOP: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

ourwatch.org.uk/protectfromfraud

Street harassment and being an active bystander



We are calling on all adults in England and Wales to stand up against street harassment.

There are many ways we can all do this safely irrespective of age, sexual orientation, gender, race, or ethnicity. Together can make a difference.

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening, sends the message to those experiencing it that it's okay and society normalises it.

Acceptance of street harassment contributes to a toxic culture that perpetuates inequality by denying equal access to public spaces. Public spaces should be safe and inclusive for all.

The simplest thing that we can all do is ask 'Are you okay?' to someone experiencing it. If you see someone experience street harassment, and it is safe to do so, ask them that question.



You can be an 'active bystander'

A bystander is someone who is present at an event or incident but does not take part. Being an active bystander means being aware of when someone's behaviour is inappropriate or threatening and choosing to challenge it.

There are several reasons why people don't help when they witness crimes or incidents:

- They fail to notice the crime or incident
- They fail to recognise the seriousness of it
- They fail to take any personal responsibility
- They don't know how to respond
- They worry about being judged for their actions
- They don't want to put themselves in danger
- They fear legal consequences
- They lack empathy
- They don't think they have the authority to help

How can we be active bystanders?

1. Don't expect others to be the first to act
2. Take responsibility to do something, if it's safe
3. Encourage others to get involved safely
4. Empathise with the victim
5. Offer a small act of kindness
6. Call for support if it's not safe to intervene



ourwatch.org.uk/streetharassment