

M&S HOME INSURANCE

Home security checklist



Most home burglaries are carried out by opportunist thieves; this simple checklist outlines some of the ways you can help keep your home secure.

EXTERNAL DOORS	✓
Keep external doors locked, even when you're at home	
Check your external doors meet British standards (BS 3621)	
Check all external locks meet Kitemark standards (TS007:2012)	
Ensure valuables (including house and car keys) are kept out of sight of the front door	
Consider fitting a letterplate restrictor to hinder potential burglars	
Don't hide spare house keys outside your home; leave a spare set with a family member or trusted friend/neighbour	
OUTBUILDING AND PATIO DOOR SECURITY	✓
Keep outbuildings and patio doors locked when not in use	
Outbuildings should be secured with weatherproof locks	
Keep any integral garage doors locked	
Fit patio or sliding doors with anti-lift locks or device	
WINDOWS	✓
Fit all house windows with key operated locks – and keep locked when not open	
Garage and shed windows can be obscured with frosted adhesive vinyl – if a burglar can't see in, it reduces the temptation to break in	
OUTDOOR SECURITY	✓
Ensure gates are secured with weatherproof padlocks	
Keep shrubs, bushes and hedges well-trimmed so there are no hiding places	
A low boundary at the front of your property ensures neighbours and passers-by have good visibility of your front door	
External lighting – the police suggest Dusk to Dawn lighting, which uses low energy bulbs fitted within a sensor that is designed to come on during the hours of darkness.	
Consider using a battery-operated siren alarm in your garage or shed – they generally cost less than £20 and are simple to install and use	
Get into the good habit of putting everything away when you have finished with it, otherwise you could find your own tools being used to break into your own house	
AWAY FROM HOME	✓
As the nights get darker, leave a couple of lights on timer to make your home look occupied and so you aren't walking into a dark house	
Going on holiday – check all of your doors and windows are locked before your leave	
Consider cancelling your post via Royal Mail Keepsafe®	
Don't "check in" or post your holiday photos on social media whilst you're on holiday	