



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



Protecting your home and the things you care about

Although burglary rates are falling in many areas across the country and you are three times less likely to be a burglary victim than in 1993, there were still 193,851 recorded domestic burglaries in England and Wales in 2015. Being burgled is a horrible experience - to know that a stranger has been inside your home, among your precious possessions and taken things that mean something to you - is devastating for many victims. The Alresford District is fortunate in that we are a relatively low crime area, but we want to keep it that way, so we need to be vigilant and take sensible precautions.

Most burglaries are opportunistic, and many can be prevented.

Neighbourhood Watch recommends using what is called the **WIDE** principle when looking at how to secure your home – and it's very simple. Try to ensure your home has:

- W** → Window locks on every window
- I** → Interior lights left on a timer when you're away
- D** → Double or dead bolts fitted on doors
- E** → External lights on a sensor

Taking these basic steps to protect yourself can offer 49 times more protection against burglary than homes without these measures.

Living within a Neighbourhood Watch scheme area reduces the likelihood of being a burglary victim. Households living in Neighbourhood Watch areas experience 21% fewer burglaries than similar households.

As we enter the month of May, you may be thinking of going away on holiday soon. That's a pleasure you deserve to enjoy without worrying about the home you've left behind.

- Make sure your home looks occupied. Ask a neighbour to move post away from your letterbox – important if you have a glass pane in your front door.
- Put some lights on a timer switch to make your house look occupied. You can also get timer switches for a radio or TV.
- Be careful about posting on Facebook and other social media that you're away. Selfies posted from the beach are a sure-fire way to tell everyone you know that your house is empty!
- Tell your neighbours you are going away and consider letting a neighbour park on your driveway.
- Lock the front door and have a great time. But remember to leave your contact details with a trusted neighbour.

If anyone has suggestions for topics that they think would be suitable for future Neighbourhood Watch articles in the Forum, please get in touch - e-mail contact.adnwa@gmail.com