Home security checklist

This checklist will help you understand how secure your home is. Following its steps can help reduce the risk of:

- your house being a target to thieves
- a thief getting into your garden or house
- your money or valuables being stolen if someone breaks in

Start from the edge of your property and work your way into the house. Add up your points then use the total to see how secure your home is.

Garden and outbuildings	Points
Make sure hedges, walls, and fences are not broken and have no gaps	2
Keep hedges, walls, and fences at the sides and back of your house 1.8 metres tall	2
Keep hedges, walls, and fences at the front of your house 1 metre tall	2
Make sure all gates work and are locked	2
Keep furniture or bins somewhere they cannot be used to climb over fences or into windows	1
Cut off any plant branches near fences so they cannot be used to climb over the fence	1
Keep all valuables (such as tools and bikes) locked up and out of sight	2

Alarms, CCTV, and security lights	Points
Make sure all alarms work and cover all the ways into your house (such as doors, garages, driveways, windows)	2
Put cameras 3 metres high and where they can film all the ways into your house (such as doors, garages, driveways, windows)	2
Have signs that say you use CCTV	1
Put dusk-to-dawn LED lights near all the ways into your house (such as doors, garages, driveways)	2
Check your house name or number can be seen from the street (so emergency services can find your house easily)	1

Windows and doors	Points
Shut and lock all doors and windows when you're not using them (including patio, garage, and outbuilding doors)	1
Never leave keys in locks	1
Regularly check the frames, locks, and hinges are not broken	1
Use ventilation locks, restrictors, or sash stops on open windows to stop someone opening them wide enough to climb through	1
Have laminated glass on all glass doors or add safety film to the glass	2
Add drop bolts, vibration alarms, or door handle alarms on all doors that lead outside	2

Valuables	Points
Keep all keys, bags, gifts, and valuables away from doors, windows and letterboxes	1
Keep contactless car keys in a faraday pouch and out of sight	1
Join the Neighbourhood Watch and sign up to their alerts	1
Keep expensive items such as jewellery, gold, or large amounts of cash in a Safe Deposit Federation vault or bank	2
Record or photograph your valuables and their serial numbers	1
Insure your valuables	1
Get an insurance and fire-rated safe for the type and value of items kept inside it	2

Before leaving your house	Points
Ask someone you trust to check your house and garden while you're away	1
Cancel or re-schedule deliveries if you're away for a few days	1
Use smart plugs or timers to turn lights on and off when you're away (so the house does not look empty)	1

	Points
Total	

Check your home security score

Your score shows how many steps you've taken to secure your home. Every step taken can help reduce the risk of a break-in.

- **0 to 10 points:** try a few more security steps
- **10 to 20 points:** you've taken some useful steps, try a few more if you can
- **20 to 30 points:** you've taken many steps to secure your home
- **30 to 40 points:** you've done most steps to secure your home

How to make your home more secure

Use the steps on this checklist to help secure your home. Start with the steps that are the quickest and easiest for you to do.

You can find more ways to make your home secure in our booklet "How to prevent a break in.

For more crime prevention advice, visit the "advice" section of the Police Scotland website.

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