



HOUSE BURGLARY AND COLD CALLERS

Distraction burglary. If in doubt, keep them out!

Not all burglars break into your home, some try to trick or con their way in.

Known as distraction burglars, or bogus callers, they will try to mislead you or distract your attention to get into your home and steal your money or valuables.

Most people who call at your home will be genuine but sometimes people turn up unannounced, with the intention of tricking their way into your home.

You should always be aware when someone you don't know calls at your door.

They can be convincing and often persuasive.

- Bogus callers may be smartly dressed and claim to be from the Parish, the police, health organisations or gas, water or electricity companies.
- They may be dealers offering to buy your jewellery, antiques or furniture at what seems to be a good price but could actually be a lot less than the item is worth.
- They may be workmen trying to persuade you that you need urgent repairs doing to your home. You also need to be careful of callers offering to make building repairs or to tarmac your drive. Sometimes they can ask for money in advance or even overcharge you.
- Beware of callers who attempt to distract you by claiming they have seen something untoward in another room or outside, which may encourage you to leave the room.
- Fitting and using a door chain or spy hole to the front door will help you to check who the caller is before opening and if they cannot produce an official identity card then do not let them in.
- You can even ring the company they say they are from to confirm their identity.
- A genuine caller will not mind you closing the door for two minutes while you check their ID and most will be happy to make an appointment and return at a later date or time.

Getting in touch

In an emergency

For example when life is in danger, call **999**

Or a crime is being committed, dial **999**

In a non-emergency

For example not requiring immediate police attendance

We have one telephone number for the whole of Jersey, staffed 24-hours a day – dial **(01534) 612612**

Most burglaries are carried out on the spur of the moment by opportunist thieves – they may see an open window or easy entry point and take their chance. In two out of ten burglaries access is gained through an open window or door.

If you have information about a crime

You can contact **Crimestoppers**, which is anonymous, on **0800 555 111**



Secure your home

Home security measures are the best way of reducing the chance of being burgled. For relatively little cost and by taking some basic precautions you can protect your property and make it difficult for the burglar.

- When you go out, make sure you lock your doors (front and back) and close your windows, even if you are going out for a short time - in many burglaries it can take the thief just five minutes to break in, steal property and leave.
- Window locks are relatively inexpensive and when installed, especially on older windows, will help stop people getting in and can serve as a deterrent to any would-be burglar - they are less likely to break in if they have to smash a window.
- Deadlocks fitted to doors make it difficult for a thief to gain entry to your property and also make it harder for them to get out. If you have deadlocks installed, remember to use them but don't leave the key near the door or in an obvious place. If you don't have them, consider getting a mortise deadlock (to BS3621) fitted.
- 'Hiding' spare keys outside your home is an open invitation to thieves. Avoid leaving keys in an obvious place near doors or windows too.
- Televisions, stereos and other valuables are attractive to thieves, especially if they are on view from the outside.
- Try to ensure that valuable items cannot be seen through windows. and when buying new items like DVD players or video recorders don't leave the empty boxes on display near your bins.
- Visible burglar alarms and security lighting are good deterrents to potential thieves but it's courteous to your neighbours to ensure that alarms shut off after 20 minutes and that your lights do not disturb anyone.
- See who's at the door before you answer it by getting an inexpensive 'spy hole' fitted. A door chain will let you open the door a little way
- Post coding your property can deter burglars because it makes it harder for thieves to sell. The police have a much better chance of returning property to its rightful owner following a burglary if it is marked. Burglary Packs are available free of charge at the States of Jersey Police Enquiry Desk, and contain stickers and ultra violet pens. The packs also have stickers to display in the front and back windows of your home to show that you have marked your belongings.
- Make a list of all valuable items and keep it somewhere safe. Take pictures of all valuable items like jewellery and silverware and write down the serial numbers of your TV, video, hi-fi, home computer and camera equipment, to help the police identify them should they be stolen and recovered.
- Taking steps to increase the security of your home will reduce the chances of being burgled, but should you return home and notice signs of a break-in, don't go in or call out - there is a possibility that the intruder may still be inside. Go to a neighbour's house to call the police.

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Out all day, or going away on holiday?

Most burglars only tackle empty homes.

If you are out of the house all day or if you are going away, try to make it look like someone is at home and don't advertise your absence.

- Use timer switches, available from most DIY stores, to switch on lights, radios and other appliances when you're out or away.
- Hide financial documents and keys – if someone does break in, you don't want them to also steal from your bank account or take your car.
- If you're going away, get a friend or neighbour to collect your post, draw your curtains, put a light on and make your home looked lived in.
- Contact your local Parish Hall and give them your departure and return dates, so that they will be aware that your house is not occupied.
- Remember to cancel milk and papers when you're away.

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