

## Keep them out

Nobody has the right or need to enter your property unless you want them to. When anyone calls at your door, follow these five steps to stay safe and sound:

- 1 Keep the door closed, ask who it is and what they want**
- 2 Have they got an appointment?** If yes – check any identity card they produce. If no – do not open the door for any reason
- 3 If they say they are from a company,** ask them for your password (if you have one). They will know this if they are genuine. If they don't know it, don't let them in
- 4 Genuine callers will always be prepared to return by appointment** at a time that is safe and convenient to you. Perhaps when you have a friend with you
- 5 If in doubt, keep them out.** Don't let them in. Dial 999 and tell the police

Dudley community safety partnership (the police, council and other key agencies) is working together to improve the quality of life for everyone, reduce crime and make Dudley a safer place.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously report it to the police on 0845 113 5000. In an emergency dial 999.

If you live in Dudley and would like to arrange a visit or have any questions regarding home security contact your local neighbourhood team on 0845 113 5000.

## Want to know more?

To find out more about what Dudley community safety partnership is doing to reduce crime please visit the community safety team website [www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk](http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk)

## Reporting crime

Call **999** if a crime is happening now or anyone is in immediate danger. To leave anonymous information about any crime, call **Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111**. If you require police to attend a non-urgent incident, call **West Midlands Police on 0845 113 5000**.

## Dudley Council bogus caller hotline

If you believe that bogus callers are operating in your area please call **01384 812045**.

**If you would like this document in large print or braille, audiotape or in another language, contact the community safety team on 01384 812718.**

# Working together to tackle burglary in Dudley

## think safe - be safe

**safe & sound**  
Dudley's Community Safety Partnership

[www.safeandsound.org.uk](http://www.safeandsound.org.uk)

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Many burglaries are spur of the moment, carried out by opportunist thieves who don't even have to use force – they get in through an open door, window or other easy point of entry and take their chance.

The good news is that it doesn't take much to improve security and put burglars off. Spending money on security measures can seem daunting but it's a good investment. It will last a long time and can add value to your home.

Look at your home through a burglar's eyes.

- **If you think your security looks poor, chances are so will a burglar**
- **Are there places where they could break in without being seen?**
- **If you've forgotten your keys but can still get in, so can a burglar**

Although statistics show your chance of being burgled is actually very low, it may be timely for you to look at your home security.

### Did you know

- **Burglars don't like stealing property which has been marked with your postcode, as it is easier for the police to identify the property as stolen**
- **There are fewer burglaries in neighbourhood watch areas. They can help protect your home, why not join in your local scheme or create your own if there isn't one**
- **Safe & Sound, Dudley's community safety partnership operate a 'Home Security Initiative' which aims to identify the more vulnerable members of our communities and make sure their**

**homes are safe and secure. The service is free and is provided by a referral process through partner agencies**

- **One in five burglaries take place via unlocked doors and windows**
- **The fire service also offers a free home fire safety check. Fire fighters will check your home and give you fire safety advice to keep you safe and fit a free smoke alarm, if required. To request your free home fire safety check call 0800 389 5525**

Further advice can be found on safe & sound's website

**[www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk](http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk)** or on the West Midlands Police website **[www.west-midlands.police.uk/saferhomes](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/saferhomes)**

Information can also be obtained from **Dudley Council Plus on 01384 812345.**

### How secure is your home?

- **Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates, fencing or walls. Always keep gates closed and locked (a self closer will help)**
- **Fit trellises above gates and walls to deter and prevent anyone climbing over them**
- **Fit a fixed letterbox hood**
- **Hang blinds or net curtains in windows where it's easy to see in from the road or pavement**
- **Keep your car keys away from front doors and windows when at home**

- **Fit a burglar alarm, making sure it's installed and works properly and is regularly maintained**
- **Security lighting should make offenders feel vulnerable and observed and should illuminate high risk areas, allowing occupiers to see anyone approaching the property**
- **Fit strong padlocks to shed and garage doors, keeping tools secure and out of sight**
- **Trim back hedges or plants that a burglar could hide behind**
- **Make sure you have up to date insurance**
- **Visit our website for details of the national property database scheme – immobilise and register now**

Remember to:

- **Always lock your front and rear doors – in particular UPVC front doors which are sometimes left unlocked when people are at home**
- **Make sure all ground floor windows and those accessible from flat roofs are securely locked**
- **Ensure all windows and doors are secure when leaving home, even for a short period of time**
- **Use timer switches to give the impression that someone is home**
- **Recycle packaging from any electrical purchases as soon as possible. Leaving it outside advertises your new property to burglars**
- **Always arrange for a friend or neighbour to collect the post and look after your home when you are on holiday**