

Burglars get your car through the letterbox - Bracknell

Police in Bracknell are again warning residents about house burglaries across the area in recent weeks that all have a common factor.

It comes as a real shock when you wake up to find you have been burgled in the night, while you slept.

The reason is that the house was not completely secure when you went to bed.”

Houses are being burgled by burglars who know an easy way in. They target homes with replacement front doors. These doors give excellent security, with their multiple locking points fitting into the door frame, but only if the key is turned to deadlock the mechanism. If you don't turn the key, the thieves can reach for the inside handle using a tool and open the door.

Even if the doors are deadlocked, there is also the chance they can fish for the keys with a long implement if you leave them in view.

Car keys can be a target, but the thieves will search for other valuables that they can carry away. Be warned that some home insurance policies may be invalidated if the door is not locked properly.

If you have a burglar alarm already, you should know that they have different zones that can be switched on or off independently. This means that the house can be alarmed downstairs, while you sleep securely in another zone which is switched off.

“If you have concerns about fire safety in the home, especially about unlocking doors in an emergency, it is possible to plan your escape route and have access to keys that will enable you to get out of the house quickly and safely.

Smoke detectors are an essential part of your home kit. Visit www.rbfrs.co.uk/fs_localfiresafety.asp or call the helpline on **0118 932 2152** for further home fire safety advice.”

For more advice on home security, contact Bracknell police area's crime reduction adviser John Oblein on 01344 823482, or visit www.crimereduction.gov.uk