

Crime Reduction Advice

House Burglary

- Perimeter fencing and trellising on top of the fence makes climbing over more difficult. Thorny bushes also help.
- Gates, doors and windows: lock them when you need to.
- Door and window security: locks that comply with British or European Standards (BS) should be fitted or specified in new or replacement doors and windows. (Window frames to BS7950 with laminated glass installed, Doors to PAS 24)
- Burglar alarms: companies that belong to either of two trade associations are recommended by police. Any directory will show company entries that will include the logos from either NSI or NACOSS, which are the same organisation, or SSAIB. By dealing with these companies, you will get a proper estimate and no high-pressure sales. Burglar alarms can be part set at night, allowing occupants to sleep in an unalarmed zone while the remainder is protected.
- Replacement doors with multiple locking points are vulnerable to attack through the letterbox if the door is not deadlocked by turning the key.
- Fear of fire is often cited as a reason for not deadlocking. Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the police agree that residents should have a strategy to exit the building in case of fire.
- Burglars are burgling houses to find car keys and then stealing cars from the drive, often at night. Follow the advice given previously.
- Distraction burglaries or bogus callers prey on vulnerable residents and support is available for extra home security. If you are concerned for any vulnerable residents or relatives, call the police (0845 8 505 505) or Bracknell Forest Council (01344 352000). Use a sticker on your front door that warns 'We do not buy or sell at this door' available from the police stations.

Garage or Shed Burglary

- Garage up and over doors can have various add-on locks to make them more secure. If there is an additional door between the garage and the house, this enables the extra security to be on the inside of the garage door(s) and invisible to burglars. Garages such as those in blocks can only have external locks added.
- Sheds are difficult to make secure so securing the items inside is a better measure. A long chain or cable threaded through tools, tool chests or garden equipment handles and padlocked will make it difficult for a burglar. A shackle fitted to the shed floor to tie all the chained property down could also be used.
- Visibly mark your garden tools with your postcode and house number.

Car Crime

- Car security is recommended by police only when it has been tested by either of two professional bodies: The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre or Sold Secure. Look for their names on any auto security product.
- Satellite navigation equipment is a favourite target as thieves look for the tell-tale sucker rings on windscreens. Wipe away the ring and take the 'sat nav' with you.
- Always take valuables with you when you park your car, even at home.
- An empty car, with nothing to steal, is the ideal.
- When parking in towns, look for the 'Park Mark' logo which means that the car park has won an award for its crime reduction measures.

Business Crime

- Ensure you report crimes against you. If the police are unaware of your problems, they cannot do anything to help.
- Employees should be encouraged to take responsibility for company property, just as they would for their own.
- Laptop computers should never be left in the parked car. Thieves recognise company cars and will break in to search the boot in search of IT equipment.

Property Marking and Registration

- Use your postcode and house number/name to identify your valuables. Use either an ultra violet marker pen or visibly mark them with an engraving tool.
- www.immobilise.com is a FREE service where you can record ANY serial number featured on valuables onto a national database. The police can then search this when items are found. This increases the chance of you getting your property back and convicting the thieves as well.

21st Century Crime

- Bank cards are part of most people's lives. Giving your card details may expose you to fraud. Typing PIN numbers openly during transactions may have the same result. Giving your card and letting it out of your sight is also a way for criminals to copy the details. Devices have been known to be attached to bank cash machines which enable cards to be copied. Not all countries use Chip and PIN and your next bank statement may show money drawn in a faraway land! Never give your PIN to anyone. Banks will never ask for it.
- 'Phishing' is the name of the internet problem where criminals try to get your personal details while posing as a bank where you might be a customer. Banks will never act in this way.
- Professional-looking post, personalised to you, arrives that tells you of 'Money You Have Already Won'. An administration fee will be requested. Do not reply as something that looks too good to be true probably is.
- E-mails received from other countries tell of large amounts of money stuck in bank accounts that need your personal details to release the money to you. Do not reply – delete immediately.

Any further information is available at the police stations, public libraries or internet web-sites. Crime reduction advice is also available through the Thames Valley Police ONE STOP NUMBER 0845 8 505 505.

For more information on crime reduction and your community, please refer to the following web-sites:

Anti-Social Behaviour

www.respect.gov.uk

Berkshire East Primary Care Trust

www.berkshireeast-pct.nhs.uk

Bracknell Forest Council

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/cdrt

Business Crime Advice

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/businesscrime/index.htm

Closed Circuit Television - CCTV

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/businesscrime/cctv.htm

Domestic Abuse

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/domesticabuse
www.womensaid.org.uk

Drugs & Alcohol

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/liv-peoplemisuse-drugs.htm
www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk
www.talktofrank.com

Home Office Crime Reduction

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk

Home Security

www.securedbydesign.com/aware/index.aspx

Identify your property

www.immobilise.com

Internet Chat Room Advice

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/victimsofcrime/internet/vic6.htm

Local Information

www.upmystreet.com

National Statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch UK

www.neighbourhoodwatch.net

Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service

www.rbfrs.co.uk

Scambusters

www.scambusters.org

Secured Car Parks

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/saferhomes/homesecurity/sbydcars.htm

Thames Valley Police

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Vehicle Security

www.thatcham.org/home.jsp?uqid=1
or www.soldsecure.com

Visitors to the area and students

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reduction/students/visitors.htm