

## **Make Your Home More Secure This Summer**

Everyone needs a holiday at some time and the summer months are the most popular time for us to get away. We all want to come back to our homes as we left them, however almost half of all burglaries happen when a home is empty.

To help make your home more secure whilst you are away, follow some of the following steps before you go;

- Make your home look like someone is living in it. Closing curtains in the daytime shows your home is empty. Use automatic time switches to turn lights on when it gets dark.
- Cancel any milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Uncollected mail is a sign you are away. The Royal Mail's 'Keepsafe' service will keep hold of your mail for up to two months whilst you are away.
- Lock valuable items and documents away in a safe or alternatively leave with other family members.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked, and if you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set. Do a double check before you leave the house.

Suffolk County Council is working with the police, local councils and community groups to find ways to reduce burglary. There are some general tips on Home Security to consider;

- Fit 'mortise' locks (Kitemarked BS 3621) or bolts to all outside doors, and locks to all downstairs windows.
- Make sure you have up-to-date contents and building insurance
- Try not to leave valuable items, like your TV, Hi-Fi or DVD player where thieves can easily see them.
- Have an approved alarm system installed – ask your local police and insurance company for advice.

Do you have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area? Check with your local police or log on to [www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net) – It could help your home to be more secure whilst you are away.

For further information please contact the Community Safety Unit at Suffolk County Council on 01473 265159