

Wiltshire Police Media Release



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Lock up – safe and sound

The spring weather is encouraging us all to spend as much time as possible outside either in the back garden or catching up with friends on the front door step. The sunshine makes us want to open the windows and let the breeze blow away the traces of winter.

Wiltshire Police want to remind people that unlocked doors and open windows can be a gift to opportunist burglars. There has been a recent increase in such crime which is being actively policed by high visibility patrols and detailed investigations. Residents can help prevent becoming a victim themselves by following the advice below.

By remembering to lock front and back doors and not leaving accessible windows open in unoccupied rooms it will reduce the chance of a “walk in” burglary taking place. Thieves will often target UPVC doors because they have a 'double lock' system which means that when the door is closed it is not necessarily locked. Once inside handbags, wallets and car keys are usually easy to find and the burglary can take seconds rather than minutes.

When going out, securely lock all doors and windows – no matter what the temperature and no matter how long you intend to be away. ‘Just popping across the road for a minute’ or ‘just nipping down the shop’ is ample time for a criminal to strike.

Do be a nosey neighbour – tell us if you see anyone acting suspiciously in or around premises in your neighbourhood, and if possible, take the registration numbers of any unusual vehicles in your area.

Don't approach any suspicious persons – tell us about them with as much detail as possible, and try to include personal descriptions, and what clothes they were wearing.

Detective Sergeant Andy Beaven said: 'We live in a very safe part of the country with a very low burglary rate but there are still people who will enter your home to steal given the opportunity. It's important that the public take a good look around their homes to see if they can identify possible entry points. If they can see any - then an opportunist thief will also spot them.'

DS Beaven continued: 'Generally thieves like the easy option so simple efforts like making sure that doors and windows are secure when you go to bed will put them off. Burglaries also happen during the day so if, for example, you are in the back garden, lock the front door. Simple advice but often forgotten.'

For more information on how to improve your home security please contact the local Crime Reduction Officers or your Neighbourhood Policing Team on 0845 408 7000.

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