# Protecting Your Home & Property

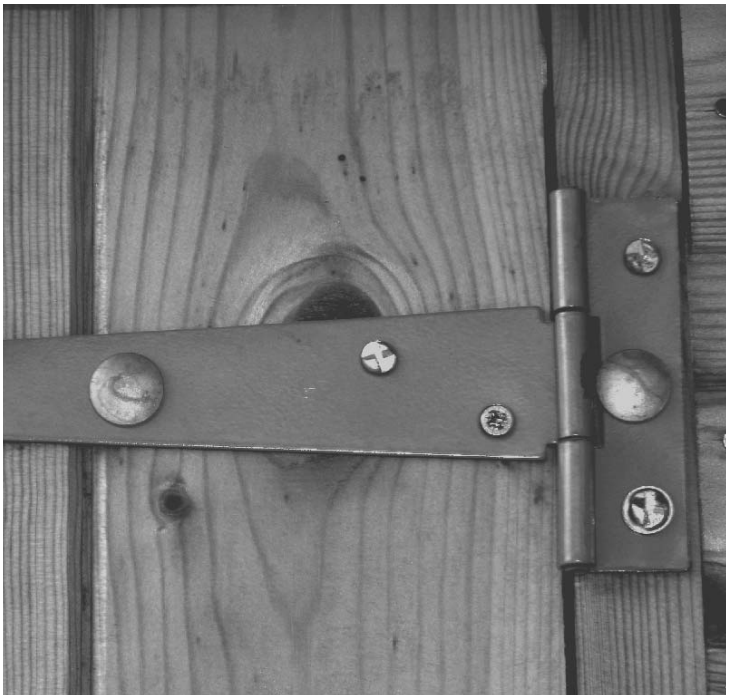
Always **call 999** if you think a crime is in progress

**Call 101** if it's not an emergency or visit:

**www.avonandsomerset.police.uk**

AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

Master



# Relentless on
## protecting your home & property information for rural communities

# Home security

- If possible, have a security alarm fitted and invest in plug timers for lights and radios to give the appearance of people being at home when you are out.

- Lock doors and windows at all times, even those in unattended rooms when you're at home.

- Make sure your front and back doors are solid doors, in good condition, with a strong frame. All external doors should be fitted with a five-lever mortice lock. A deadlock will provide additional security. It's also advisable to have a security chain and a viewer fitted. Patio doors should have sliding bolts.

- Letterbox restrictors can prevent thieves from accessing the lock from outside.

- Consider fitting key-operated window locks to all downstairs windows and any easily accessible upstairs windows. Remember to remove keys from locked windows and keep them out of sight in a safe place.

- Use PIR sensors or dusk 'til dawn security lighting around your property.

- Never leave valuables on display in your windows or near doors – especially those with cat flaps.

- At detached or remote properties, consider fitting a gate at the entrance of your drive and keep it shut whenever possible. Lock the gate overnight.

- Cut back any vegetation that might shield a thief from view and any trees that could give roof access.

- Download tracking software on to phones, laptops and any other gadgets you may have. Record all your property on national property database www.immobilise.com. Photograph your valuables and make a note of their description.

# Garages, gardens & sheds

- Secure your garden shed. Padlocks should be made of hardened steel. Buy the close-shackled variety to prevent hacksaws or bolt croppers being used.

- Shed windows should be screwed shut or have window locks. Consider fitting a metal grille. Security film on the glass can help as well as using frosted glass or curtains to stop a burglar seeing inside.

- Don't leave ladders or tools outside. They could be used to break into your home.

- Chain tools, cycles and other valuable equipment together using a high security chain or cable and a padlock. Anchor the chain into the wall or floor.

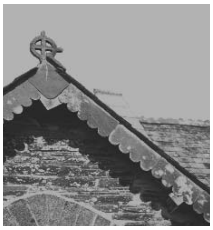
- Mark your tools with your postcode and house number, or the first two letters of your house name, then place the details on www.immobilise.com. Photograph valuable tools and unusual garden ornaments.

- Fit a strong, lockable high gate across any side passage to stop a thief getting to the back of the house where they can work undisturbed.

- Use thorny hedges and plants along boundaries, under ground-floor windows and up drainpipes to make it harder for thieves to gain access.

- House alarms can be extended to garages and sheds. Alternatively, buy a battery operated audible alarm.

- Standard 'up and over' garage doors can be easily overcome by a burglar. You can prevent this by drilling a hole through the channel above the wheels and fitting a padlock. Alternatively, fit a hasp and staple each side of the door with a padlock or fit a specialist lock.



# Vehicles & bikes

- Don't leave items such handbags, electrical items, chargers or correspondence on display in cars.
- Always lock windows and doors when leaving the car and remember to close sunroofs. Use an immobiliser wherever possible and never leave the roof down on a convertible.
- Trailers and horseboxes can be stolen and used to steal other items, including anything in them. Lock them away or use a hitch lock.
- If you own a bike, invest in two good locks that have achieved the Sold Secure award. Use each lock to catch the wheels, frame and stand. Take removable parts of the bike, such as the saddle, with you if you leave it unattended.
- At home, lock your bike in a shed or garage, preferably using a ground anchor where possible and remember to insure it.
- Take photographs of your bike, car and contents and register them on www.immobilise.com

# Livestock, horses & tack

- Make a note of any distinguishing marks or features on horses or other particularly high-value animals.
- Make sure you keep photos of your horses, or any high-value animals, taken in both summer and winter.
- All saddlery should be security marked. You can have your tack postcoded using a metal punch or engraving tool.
- Photograph your saddlery, especially if it is unusual. Keep a comprehensive list of all your tack, include details such as saddle makes or identifying numbers.
- Don't mark the door of your tack room or any other storage room as it can make a thief's life easier.

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## Fuel

- Avoid putting storage tanks in isolated areas. If this isn't possible, consider fencing or planting that will disguise the tank.
- Lock your fuel tank wherever possible and don't leave containers nearby that could be used to steal the fuel.

## Metal theft

- Don't leave metal, like materials for DIY projects (copper piping, batteries, etc) on display. Make sure they're locked away and stored out of sight.
- Mark your property with forensic marking fluid or use a set of hammer and punches for heavier metal objects.
- Photograph and mark any expensive metal garden ornaments or planters.

## Alert police if...

- you are approached by anyone offering cash for scrap.
- you see any people who seem out of place or behaving suspiciously such as loitering in vans in your street. Make a note of their vehicle registration.

**Keep a pen in your vehicle and use the back of this leaflet to note any suspicious vehicle registrations or have the beat mobile phone number for your local police team in your phone so you can text the details direct.**

## For further advice or to report any suspicious activity call 101

You can also report it online at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call.

## Join your local Watch scheme

Rural, Farm, Horse and Neighbourhood Watches (NHW) look after property through the sharing of intelligence between the community and the police.

They provide a ring-round service, encourage neighbours to look out for each other and give officers the chance to get to know their local community – for example, who's bought new equipment or whether someone is on holiday. The schemes also provide property marking and crime prevention advice.

Statistics show that you are four times less likely to be burgled if you are a member of a NHW scheme. If you would like to join your local NHW/Farm Watch/ Rural Watch/Horse Watch, or start one in your area, call your local Beat Team on 101.

For more information, visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

**Make a note** of any valuable metal or other items here.

| Item | Colour/make/model | Serial or registration number | Distinguishing marks | Date |
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You can register them on www.immobilise.com

**Make a note of any suspicious vehicles** you have seen or that get circulated through Neighbourhood Watch (or other Watch schemes). If you see them in your area, report them to the police.

| Make/model | Colour | Registration number | Date | Place seen |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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