

## AUTUMN CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

The Police would like you to help them keep burglary rates low as the nights draw in and would offer the following Crime Prevention advice for the Autumn:

- Make sure doors and windows are locked, particularly when leaving the house. It's easy to leave your front door or windows unlocked, especially when you're in a hurry or distracted. But even if you only do it once, that could be enough to get burgled. Most burglars are opportunistic - they look for an easy way to get in that won't take long or arouse suspicion, so many try the front door first.
- Look like you are in when you are out. Timer switches can be fitted to operate radios and lights when you are out.
- Make sure you close curtains or blinds to prevent potential thieves seeing into your home.
- Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice.
- Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat or in a flowerpot.
- Marked property can deter burglars because it is harder for a thief to sell on and may also help police secure a conviction.
- Consider joining or starting a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Register your property at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Burglary, on the whole, is an opportunist crime. A burglar will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. A building that presents itself as unoccupied and insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured.