

Dear Resident,

Information received from local residents is that homes in your area are being marked with blue spray paint as possibly potential targets for burglary.

Please check your fence posts, walls, and pavements for any markings which should not be there. If you do find any, please photograph them and email them to us at chadwellheath.snt@met.police.uk or telephone the team on 020 8721 2902.

Then remove the markings from your property.

In the interim, patrols in your area will be increased.

If you have any information which you believe may be linked to this please call us on 020 8721 2902 or call 101 the non emergency reporting line.

If you believe a crime is being committed please call 999.

From your local neighbourhood policing team.
Chadwell Heath Ward



Some basic tips on home security

The following advice is aimed at giving you some basic tips on your home security in response to a recent spate of burglaries in your local area. The method of breaking into the building has varied but the access route has tended to be via sideways over gates and fences. Simple low cost measures and basic protocols can help deter the burglar from targeting your home.

Look at the opportunity the burglar has to approach your home from the street, especially access at the side via gates or fences. Be aware that the majority of burglars are young males; they are generally of light build and so able to climb gates and fences with relative ease. Look at the security of your home with that profile in mind.

Firstly and still the most basic is *lock up*. Both front and back doors if you are going out, also last thing at night. Remember those of you with UPVC style doors, pull that handle up and lock with the key. (Keep a spare key on a hook near to the door at night, but out of sight from callers as a precaution against house fire)

If you have a front gate in a fence/wall remember to close the gate. Simple! But in the mind of the thief it's a barrier he must cross rather than an open invitation to walk up to your house.

Side gates should be lockable from the inside. A padlock on the barrel bolts or latch will do just enough to stop the door being pushed open. Secure the metal fixings with coach bolts through wood and fixing point with the nut on the inner face.



Tops of gates and fences can be 'topped' that means putting some form of Anti-climb deterrent on it. There are some purpose made items like strips of plastic 'Prikka Strips' with sharp cones, that are designed to put off animals like foxes and cats.

Decorative wood trellis can be used working on the theory that it increases the height of the fence and by its nature is flimsy breaking if weight is put on it. This makes is harder to scale and potentially will be noisy if broken. Use on garden fences between homes to deter fence hopping by burglars.



It is important that any topping you use is clearly visible and not concealed to try and injure. They should be above the height of young children. 1.8m is a starting height, the same as common garden fence.

Look at external climbing aids like bins; do you need them outside the gate or fence?

Side access routes and rear gardens should be illuminated at night. We recommend dusk-till-dawn units that turn on and off remotely in response to light levels. You want to provide a *constant* low level of light at night. Not so bright the birds can't sleep, but enough that any intruder knows he can be seen on approach and if a noise causes you or a neighbour to take a look. Darkness invites the criminal as a natural cover from view.

Remember you want the burglar to be put off your home as a target. Making it difficult to gain access is one way but also ruses or advertising that might frighten off the thief is another way. If you have a dog then put the notice up on the gate to 'beware' or even if you have no dog do the same and put a **large** dog bowl on view on the other side of that fence or gate, perhaps throw in a large dog toy to add to the effect.



We are often asked about house alarms, are they worth it? If you can afford one then yes, it will put off the majority of burglars. The noise they make will unsettle the intruder and if nothing else cut down the time he will risk in your home. I would suggest that if cost is the issue, then consider a fake alarm box, placed to the front and giving the appearance of a genuine box. If the sight of a potential alarm system is all it takes, then just the box will do the trick. The same could apply to CCTV cameras.

Please Remember!
999 for Emergency calls or 101 for Non Emergency