



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

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Burglary Update

Please be aware that burglaries were reported last month in the area of Valley road, The Clump and Spencer Walk and more recently we have seen burglaries reported in Whitelands Avenue, Heronsgate road, the Loudwater estate and Ladywood close.

One thing I have noticed when conducting patrols in the evening are the amount of houses in complete darkness. I would like to stress is the importance of illuminating a home during the early evenings between 5pm and 10pm which seems to be the capture time at the moment. A house in complete darkness is an obvious sign to any opportunist burglar. If residents are going away, they should be using timer switches plugged into a lamp and timed to come on in different rooms during the evening. Ask a neighbour to bring your bin in from the roadside. This was the case for a resident in Chorleywood who had gone away, and their bin was the only one left out in the street and they were unfortunately burgled. Also ask a neighbour to park their car on your driveway if there are likely to be no cars parked on your drive for a week.

Could I also encourage residents to sign up to Police alerts via OWL messaging <https://www.owl.co.uk/> or via the app on apple store or google play.

- [Download the app on the Apple store \(opens in a new window\).](#)
- [Download the app from Google Play \(opens in a new window\).](#)

Police can be called on 101 for a suspicious incident or 999 for any crime in progress. There is the option of contacting Police via the Herts Police website if 101 is busy <https://www.herts.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

I have attached some crime prevention advice, tips and information about what Police actually do when they attend a burglary and also include a link with crime prevention advice from the Herts police website at the bottom of this email. We

Tips to prevent burglary:

- Check downstairs windows and doors are securely locked before you leave or go to bed.
- Use laminate glass where possible for any rear doors or windows. If this is not practicable, consider the use of security film over existing windows.
- Use a "Fake TV" or timer switches on lamps to give the impression someone is at home.
- Do not leave keys, phones or other valuables on windowsills or in any other visible place.
- Secure UPVC doors by lifting the handle and locking it to engage the security features.
- Consider using a doorbell camera, interior camera or a monitored burglar alarm.
- Securely lock rear gates, sheds and garages.
- Keep tools and ladders locked away, as they could be used to break into your home.
- Consider adding trellis to any side or rear boundaries which adds extra height up to a maximum of 2 metres.

For more detailed advice, including a printable Home Security Self-Assessment, please visit the "Protect Your Home" section of our website

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/leaving-your-home-checklist/>

What do the police do at a burglary ?

- Police will attend every burglary dwelling
- A scenes of crime officer will review and attend every burglary
- A Detective constable will be allocated the crime to investigate
- A Detective sergeant will review every burglary to make sure nothing has been missed.
- Police have minimum standards of investigation that have to be completed in all cases.
- Police will check cctv, house to house and deliver burglary prevention packs to residents surrounding the attacked premises. An OWL message will also be put out by officers to make local residents aware and give advice on how to prevent it happening to them.
- We carry out intelligence based operations to catch criminals and regularly work alongside our neighbouring forces to target inquisitive crime.

Please visit the Herts Police website below for all advice on crime prevention.

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

kind regards



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<https://bit.ly/police-Ricky>



<https://www.owl.co.uk/>