

## SECURITY INFORMATION



An Garda Síochána continue to advise home owners to '**Lock Up and Light Up**' during longer darker winter evenings. Lock Up Light Up is An Garda Síochána's anti-burglary awareness campaign, which encourages homeowners to protect their homes over the winter months, when burglaries traditionally tend to rise.

- Break-ins through the front door is the most common (33%) entry route for burglars
- 45% of winter burglaries occur between 5pm and 11pm
- 1-in-5 access through an unsecured window or door
- Jewellery and cash are the most common items stolen
- Computers, mobile phones, TVs and games consoles are among the top items stolen
- The practice of 'fishing', where car keys are fished through a letterbox by burglars, also remains a problem with the Dublin region most at risk

Having your home burgled is a distressing and traumatic experience. Some simple steps can help protect your home:

- Turn on some lights
- Use timer switches / motion detectors/ smart lights to turn on lights via phone
- Use motion detector/sensor lights outside, make sure they cover the door and not just the area near the door
- Lock all doors and windows as part of your regular routine
- Use an alarm
- Store keys away from windows
- Don't keep large amounts of cash or jewellery in the house



Gardaí also warn of an increase in '**bogus callers**'. People are impersonating tradesmen. They are even impersonating Gardaí pretending to check the security of the house. An Garda Síochána will not cold call to a house or make requests like this.

Although burglary figures have trended significantly downwards over the long term in the area, Gardaí are currently appealing for all **vehicle owners to ensure they lock their vehicle** no matter where it is parked. Do not store valuables in the car, but if you do have to, keep them out of sight. Make sure your keys are stored safely, away from windows and letterboxes. Figures show that 38% of all vehicles broken into were left unlocked. Driveways are a common location for these thefts and over 50% of them occur overnight.

Gardaí also advice to add additional locking devices for those who have **Japanese import cars** as they don't have the immobiliser – security system, making them easy to steal.

Always remember, never to endanger yourself in any way. If in doubt, please call Cabinteely Garda Station straight away on 01 6665400 and report anything suspicious. They are the professionals and know how to respond to incidents.

**For more information visit [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)**