



Home security while on holiday

You have made your bookings and compiled endless lists of things to do before you leave. And we have the result of the Brexit vote too!

Now you deserve to go away and enjoy your holiday without worrying about the home you leave behind.

Eight points for securing your property

- 1) Make your house look and sound occupied. Put some portable lights and a radio on appropriate timer switches, so they will operate automatically while you are away.
- 2) Install an intruder alarm system with a visible alarm unit on the front of the building - recommended by the Met Police as the best way to deter burglars, all year round.
- 3) Give a key to a trusted neighbour so they can remove the mail and papers that pile up on the mat. Ask if they would park on your driveway, put your bins out on collection day and then bring them in.
- 4) Find out about marking your valuables and irreplaceable items, e.g. with your postcode and house number/name or using SmartWater*.

* For information, contact your Safer Neighbourhoods policing team - see below.
- 5) Safeguard the information on your computers. Take back-ups, e.g. in cloud storage or onto a portable hard drive that you can entrust to a member of your family.
- 6) Tell your neighbours and leave your contact details with one of them while you are away. Vigilant neighbours can make a difference by alerting the police to suspicious noises, activities and visitors.
- 7) Check that doors and windows, the garden gate and garage are all securely locked and place the keys somewhere safe, out of sight.
- 8) Avoid posting on Facebook and other social media that might indicate you are on holiday. 'Selfies' posted from the beach are one way to advertise that your house is empty!

Sources: Metropolitan Police Service and Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network.

Contact your Safer Neighbourhoods policing team

St Margarets and North Twickenham (020) 8247 7142

Twickenham Riverside (020) 8247 7055

South Twickenham (020) 8247 7017

Whitton (020) 8247 7032

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