

NHW report July 2018

Reduce your chances of being burgled - home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. A lot of burglaries are spur of the moment, as a burglar may see an open opportunity and take their chance

1. If you are installing new doors and windows, make sure they are certified to British Standard BS 7950 (windows) or PAS 24-1 (doors). Window locks, especially on older windows, will help stop illegal entry
2. Remember to securely lock all doors and windows before leaving the house. It is easy to forget when you're in a hurry
3. Never leave your keys anywhere near the front door, including your letterbox; burglars know where to look. A home that looks empty is far more likely to be targeted by a burglar, so it's worth making sure your home looks occupied. Use automatic timer-switches to turn on a light or a radio when it goes dark, even if you are just out for a couple of hours
4. If you are going to be away for longer periods of time, cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries
5. Remember that visible and permanent marking your belongings helps you and the police to identify them if they are stolen. It can also make it difficult for the thief to dispose of the property
6. Fit padlocks and additional hardware to shed and garage doors. Ask a trusted neighbour or relative to clear the post away from the door mat, and open and close the curtains whilst you are away
7. Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home by installing locked gates, 2 metre minimum fencing, or walls are recommended. Trellis topping also makes climbing very difficult
8. Security lighting can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable. It is suggested that you use dusk to dawn lighting. Visible burglar alarms are also a deterrent

Scams and rogue traders

GDPR fraud rises as criminals send scam e-mails new data laws are being used by scammers to steal personal information. To comply with the regulation, legitimate companies send emails asking for consent from their customers to continue communication with them. Criminals have now taken this as an opportunity to send scam e-mails, asking recipients to click on links and enter their personal details on a fake web page. NatWest, Apple and AirBnB are just some of the companies criminals have claimed to be e-mailing from asking victims to enter personal details in order to 'keep hearing from them'. Most companies should let you sign into your account via their website (rather than clicking an e-mail link) to allow or deny them the right to still make contact with you. Only enter your personal details on sites containing **HTTPS** within the address bar.

TSB scam e-mails - recent system issues with TSB have seen criminals exploiting the opportunity to contact possible victims with scam e-mails and text messages to try and

obtain their personal details - including PINs. Fraudsters use specialist software which changes the sender ID on text messages so it appears to be from TSB. In some cases, the scam text even appears in existing TSB message threads on your phone. Clicking on links takes victims to a fake site to enter personal information, including a phone number and their online banking log-in details. Criminals then call the victim to ask for the unique code sent via text to their phone in order to log-in to the victims banking account to steal their money. Never click on links in text messages or emails claiming to be banks - Sign in directly to your online bank account via your app/web browser to check for any updates.

World Cup Scams Increase - residents are warned to beware of scams using this year's FIFA World Cup name and logo. The warning comes as a Nuneaton resident reported receiving a bogus 'International FIFA World Cup lottery letter' that stated she had won £900,000. Bogus lotteries work by asking 'winners' to send money and/or personal and financial information to receive their non-existent prize. Criminals also use emails, text messages and social media for other World Cup related scams. These include scam prizes from tournament 'sponsors'; fraudulent discount merchandise; and virus-laden links to watch matches live online. Don't share any personal details to unsolicited e-mails, texts or letters; stick to known, trusted websites when live streaming.

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