

# HOME SECURITY INFORMATION



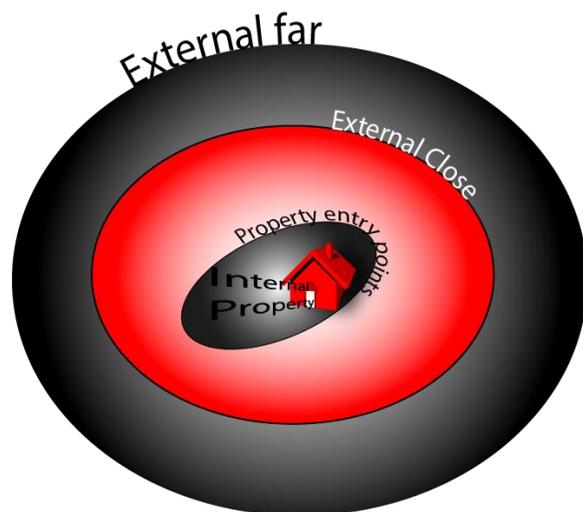
Home security information

## Home security information

Within this page there is stacks of Home security information to help you improve the security of your home.

We pride our selves for giving relevant and professional advice to all our clients. As well as home owners, we have worked with the police, local councils, letting agents and large national management companies. Within the team there's a wealth of security knowledge. We carry out general locksmithing duties but we spend a lot of our time advising and improving people's home security

If you feel after reading through this Home security information pack and require more advice you can contact us at [info@gpmlocksmith.co.uk](mailto:info@gpmlocksmith.co.uk)



## The Zones

You can divide your property down into 4 zones.

- External far
- External close
- Property entry points
- Internal property

Each zone has different areas of security that could be improved to help prevent an intruder.

### External Far

This is the view point of your property from across the road or any view point of your property but not on your own land.

### External close

On your driveway or the back end of your garden, on your land.

### Property entry points

Doors and window and any other entry point into your home.

## **Internal property**

Security measure taken inside of your property

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### **How to improve** **External far**

The security measures for external far are all visual. What can a possible intruder see when looking at your property?

Can they see open windows? Is there an alarm box on the outside? Are there any lights on in the property?

### **External close**

External close cover the same points as external far but now the possible intruder has set foot onto your property boundaries.

Are your side gates locks? You could fit plastic spiking to the tops of gates and fences to prevent climbing of. Security paint is great for the tops of fence lines and tops of walls. It stays wet and intruders will hate to get covered in it and will think twice about going over your wall or fence.

Is there any warning signs that may warn off an intruder? Such as “beware of the dog” and “CCTV in operation.” Don’t worry if you don’t have a dog. The sign alone could be what is needed to make the intruder think twice. Do you have security lighting? Light up the dark areas of the property and make anyone entering the boundaries of your property know that there presents have been possibly seen by others

CCTV can be another great deterrent and with some of the new systems you are able to link this to your smart phones allowing you to look at your property from anywhere in the world.

### **Property entry points**

Now we are dealing with the locks and locking mechanisms for your doors and windows. At a basic level, are they up to insurance standards? What are the weak points around your property? If you have a UPVC door or a door that has a multi-point lock in it you will more than likely have what is called a euro cylinder in the door. For insurance all is required out of these cylinders is that it has 5 or more pins in it.

If you wanted to improve on that we would recommend an anti-snap cylinder with a restricted key. Meaning if someone attacked the cylinder it would prove to be a lot harder to break and if it does get snapped, it snaps in a position that maintains a wall of security between them and your locking mechanism.

With regards to the restricted key these are great to maintain control of who has a key and how many keys are in circulation. You require a code to get a key cut so if you hand a key to someone, once you have had that key returned to you, you can be certain that they have not got another key cut.

Other weak points could be patio doors. The older style sliding patio doors could sometimes be lifted off their rollers so extra keyed bolts may be a great solution to prevent this from happening and the bolts can also help bring the older doors up to insurance standards.

There are now security peep holes and door bells on the market. Some are fitted with cameras that record anyone that has rung your door bell these among others are great ways to add other layers of security to your home.

## **Internal property**

Unfortunately if someone really wants to get into your property they will. And if they do you are now working with your last line of defense.

Do you have an alarm? Making the intruder feel uneasy and uncomfortable is a great start and having an alarm going off waking up the street is a great way to make the intruder uneasy.

Keep your keys in a safe place away and out of site of the doors. It's a common practice for an intruder to break into a window and then find your spare keys in order to leave via a door and even return back and use a key to get in easier the next time.

Internal locks- fitting of locks on doors inside your property are a great way of slowing down the intruders. Yes they have managed to get through an external door or window but now they have to get through another half a dozen internal doors.

A home safe is a great and affordable way to store important documents and valuables. The safe can be secured in a discrete place and can not only protect from an intruder but also fire.

# ***Lock Identification Key***

## **5 Leaver dead lock**

You can ID these locks normally by looking at the plate by the bolt. They normally have 5 LEAVER written on it.



## **Multi-point lock**

Multi-point locks come in all shapes and sizes. But 99.9% of them have a metal strap that runs from the top of the door down to the bottom of the door.



## Standard night latch

A standard night latch is relatively small and does not have an internal key lock on them.



## High security night latch

High security night latch is larger than the standard night latch. They normally have an anti-drill disk on the outside and a key lockable part on the inside.



## Keyed Bolts

Keyed bolts are commonly found on patio doors to increase security but can be fitted to other entry points



### **Standard Bolts**

These can come in all shapes and sizes but do not have a key lockable part to them

## ***Home Security check list***

This check list is mealy a guild to help you find any possible weak areas of security in your home.

The more "YES" answers the better

### **External Far**

Take yourself to the outside of your property and ideally across the road.

Can you see an alarm box? YES NO

Can you see any lighting? YES NO



## **Did you know that if you had the wrong locks on your door it could invalidate your contents insurance?**

Can you tell the difference between a mortise dead lock to a multi-point locking system?

Or a British standard night latch to a standard night latch?

The general rules are as follows

Locks accepted by 99.99% of insurance companies are:

5 lever mortise dead lock/SASH lock

Multi point locking system (normally with a min of 3 locking points)

A British standard night latch

Keyed bolts (one on the top part of the door one on the bottom of the door)

Ok so you may have seen that little list on your insurance renewal but what does it all mean?

Let me try to explain

### **5 lever mortise lock**

There are hundreds of different mortise locks available, but the most common are the 2 lever, 3 lever and 5 lever.

Inside the lock case there are levers that all get aligned when you put the key in the lock and this allows the bolt to move across and open.

2 and 3 lever locks are more suited for internal doors.

You can check your locks by looking at the side of the lock where the bolts comes out. It should have a number on there detailing the amount of levers it has.

### **Multi point locks.**

These locks are the ones that appear in the UPVC doors and composite doors.

If you're not sure if you have this type of lock, open your door and look down the side of the door. If you can see a metal strip down the door with hooks, rollers, bolts etc. this is a multi-point lock.

These locks are insurance locks but are only as strong as the cylinder that locks the door. Although a 5 pin euro cylinder is all that is needed for the multi-point locks I would highly recommend are anti-snap cylinder. Please see a link to the recent blog about anti snap locks.

Is your night latch a British standard one?

Can you double lock it from the inside with a key?

Does it have an anti-drill plate on the front of the lock?



Here two night latches. The gold one is a British standard lock and the grey is just a basic night latch.

Please note that you only need either a BS night latch or a BS mortise lock. You don't require both for your insurance but it does no harm!

### **Keyed bolts.**

There are many types on the market but as long as you have one at the top of the door and one at the bottom and they can be secured by a key your covered!

## **Anti-Snap Locks**

As of late, home-owners have been warned by various police forces to be increasingly aware of the vulnerability of the current locking mechanisms fitted in front doors. There has been a sharp rise in burglaries using the method of "Lock Snapping/Cylinder Snapping", which requires no specialist tools or knowledge and the West Yorkshire Force (Euro Cylinder Burglary Developments) have revealed that 25% of current burglaries have been committed using this method of entry. As an example, the area of Kirklees, West Yorkshire, is now recording a third of all burglaries being committed with entry being this method, we suggest all home-owners read their Crime Prevention Advice.

Lock snapping is a method which involves breaking the cylinder, meaning it is possible to work the lock to open.

It is common place to believe that the fact your door has multiple points at which it locks, means that the door is secure, however it is imperative you realise that all locks are operated by the one cylinder making it the weakest point and if broken then all locks are effectively useless.

Previously this problem has been restricted to the Yorkshire area in the main, however we are now seeing the method adopted further afield and police from many different areas giving warnings. See the Thames Valley Police for more information who are providing advice on the issue.

Lock Snapping / Cylinder Snapping prevention. With all of the information now reaching us from local authorities, we can conclude that this is a real threat to homes all over the country. It is important that you are aware of this threat, it is not something to be afraid of, just simply something to take action to prevent. Fitting a Diamond Rated Anti Snap Lock with high security handles will reduce the risk of the cylinder being snapped greatly.

## **Fire or Burglar?**

Where do you keep your keys at night? Do you even have a 'Place' where everyone in the house knows that this is where the keys are kept?

This may sound like a strange question but it is very important when considering both the security and safety of yourself, your family and tenants that this question is answered.

Here are a few fire related figures for 2011-2012 (2013 stats have yet to be released), in 2011-12 there were 308 fire fatalities in the UK, 76% of these were in dwellings and 53% were due to having been overcome by smoke, gas or toxic fumes.

Now, this is by no means saying that all of the reasons were because the person/s in the household could not find their keys, but a percentage will be. Nowadays there are a lot more safety precautions in the new house builds, however there are a lot of doors that still require their door to be locked by key from the inside. In 2013, Milton Keynes alone recorded 1,667 burglaries. That is an average of 139 per month. Making sure that the security of your house is at it's best is paramount. I don't have the exact figures from these burglaries but you will all have heard a story of a burglar managing to reach in through a letterbox or cat flap and hook the keys for the house or the car from either the keyhole itself or a nearby table etc. So where do you keep your keys?

My name is Dan Garside and I run [GPM Locks](#). Our team provide locksmith and uPVC repair services and I have worked in maintenance and security since leaving school. Where you keep your

keys is only one of the many different things you need to do, but it is most definitely one of the most important things to do. When advising on the best place to leave your keys I will always start by planting the idea of a hook, screwed into the top left corner of the inside of the door itself. This is known to all in the household and even guests as it's almost impossible not to see or hear them when opening and closing the door. But most importantly it is almost impossible for a burglar to get to, they cannot see them, they cannot reach them and if there is ever a fire and the smoke makes it difficult to see, you and anyone else in the house will know where they are. If, for some reason you do not like this idea, then make sure they are kept out of sight of any windows and close enough to the door to be easily grabbed in the instance of a fire. For those of you who are insistent on leaving your keys in the lock, if you turn your key past the point of locking the door and leave it as far as it will go it will not easily come out of the keyhole.