



# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## NEWSLETTER

### Spring 2023



The weather is now improving as the seasons change from winter to spring, and the demand for garden equipment and tools such as lawnmowers and hedge trimmers increases. Please take some time to read this leaflet for crime prevention tips and information.

**Regarding the advice given below, we strongly recommend that you visit the Sold Secure website ([www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com)) or the Secure by Design site ([www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)) for police-approved products and more detailed information that can help protect your property.**

### Home Security

As the weather gets warmer, it's nice to open windows to enjoy the fresh air but remember to keep things out of reach of anyone leaning through windows. Window restrictors allow you to open a window but prevents anyone widening the gap enough to get in.

If you're working in the garden, don't leave any open doors and windows unattended. It's easy to be distracted with the front garden, but leaving the back door open is an invitation for opportunistic criminals to enter your home.

Consider installing motion-detecting security lights with an internal light switch override, which will also activate whenever someone approaches your door. These not only scare off burglars but can light your way to your entrances without leaving an outside light on, which can advertise the fact you're out.

Ensure you lock any side gates to prevent people getting to the rear of your property. If you haven't gated or fenced access to your rear garden, we strongly recommend that you do which should be a minimum height of 1.8 metres. This could also be topped with trellis. It is worth noting that 66% of all burglaries are via the rear of the home and often occur during daylight hours.

Trim any hedges or bushes at the front of your property to a height of 1 metre. Any trees should be under-pruned to 1.8 metres to allow surveillance into and from your home.

### Garden Security

Ensure you lock away any tools that can be used to break into your home. A spade can be used to force a door or window and a ladder could help someone reach an open upstairs window.

Plant thorny bushes to bolster up your rear and side boundary. Something like pyracantha can look pretty with its small flowers and coloured berries but has spiny branches. Alternatively, you could train a blackberry bush to grow around fences or climb a wall, which has the added bonus of fruit in the autumn!

Put a visible security mark on larger pieces of garden equipment like lawnmowers and hedge trimmers. Remember that anything with a serial number can be added to the Immobilise database which improves your chances of getting any stolen items returned if they are recovered.

### Shed & Garage Security

Many modern garages are used as additional storage rather than housing a car. Ensure good quality Sold Secure padlocks are used to provide additional security. Install Sold Secure ground anchors to secure motorcycles or pushbikes as these remain popular targets for thieves. Adding the garage to any existing burglar alarm or using a stand-alone alarm can give an audible deterrent.

Replace the screws on shed hinges with one-way screws or coach bolts and always use a closed shackled Sold Secure padlock and hasp and staple. Secure any items inside with a Sold Secure ground anchor or shed shackle and lock away any tools. A battery-powered alarm from any DIY store can also be installed to alert residents and deflect offenders.

Fit an internal grill over garage and shed windows and use something like obscure film on the glass to stop people seeing what's inside while still allowing light in.

# POLICE APPROVED SECURITY PRODUCTS

There are two approved product websites you should visit for any security items.

**Secure by Design (SBD)** [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) covers windows, doors, access control, RFID blocking & disklok products.

**Sold Secure** [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) has a range of padlocks, ground anchors, vehicle wheel locks and a steering wheel lock which is on both Sold Secure and SBD.

A number of cars, including some high-value models, have been stolen or entered by unknown means. Some professional thieves use technology to intercept the signal that is transmitted between the vehicle and their fob/keys. The RFID Defender below can help protect your vehicle from this type of attack.

**Keyless entry RFID Defender Signal Blocker** for car keys, phones, credit cards – This is the product that is approved and can be found on the Solon website or online.



**Solon Security** (which is an SBD company) – [www.defendersignalblocker.co.uk](http://www.defendersignalblocker.co.uk) has a range of keyless entry blockers.

A mini-RFID defender twin pack is £4.99. Purchasers need to use both for the car fob/key and the spare fob/key. Many people forget to secure any spare keys, so the fob and car on the drive are still signalling each other.

The fob/key and mobile phone blocker is larger and retails at £5.95



**Disklok** – This device goes over the steering wheel completely and is both a physical and visual security measure. This is a very good security product for cars that need to be parked on a driveway, motor homes in storage and general daily use for all vehicle types with a steering wheel. These are available in three sizes, small £140, and medium / large at £145 from Disklok or the retailers Halfords and Euro Carparts. They can also be purchased online [www.disklokuk.co.uk](http://www.disklokuk.co.uk)

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