

Home Security Advice

First of all I would like to introduce myself, my name is Rob Vickers and I am the owner of ARVCO Locksmith Services. ARVCO are a local company based in Tipton but cover the whole of the West Midlands, South Staffordshire and North Worcestershire. I had a chat with Jill and Dawn from the Black Country Connection and we felt that with the local burglary figures being well above the National average, it would be a good idea to write a series of articles suggesting ways that the readers can improve their home security. So in this first article I have provided a quick guide on how to reduce the likelihood of getting burgled, some of these suggestions may seem a little obvious but hopefully there will be something to help everyone.



ARVCO's Top 20 Security Tips -

- 1. Make sure that the locks fitted to your wooden doors conform to the BS3621 requirements (locks that do will have the British Standard Kite Mark and number stamped on them)** - Most insurance companies will not pay out if the lock doesn't conform to these requirements.
- 2. Make sure that the locks on your Aluminium, UPVC or Composite doors do not protrude more than 3mm away from the handle plate** - If they do, burglars can snap these off and gain easy access to the locking mechanism (The more they protrude, the easier they will snap). If they do protrude more than 3mm, swap them for locks that fit flush to the handle plate or -
- 3. Fit Snap-Safe (Anti-snap) Euro Cylinders to all UPVC / Composite and Patio Doors** - Approx 90% of these types of doors are fitted with budget locks which can easily be broken into. Most of the general public are not aware of this, unfortunately however, burglars are. There will be more information on this subject in the next article.
- 4. Fit an anti-lift device and additional locks at the top and bottom of patio doors** - These are security weak points.
- 5. Fit internal security locks (Sash Jammers) to all UPVC and Composite doors** - These give added security and also act as a secondary lock if the Multi-Point lock fails.
- 6. Fit locks on windows that are not required for emergency egress** - These will help reduce the risk of burglars smashing small windows and gaining access (especially single glazed windows).
- 7. Fit security chains and spy holes to front doors** - These will reduce the risk of unwanted intruders forcing their way into your home.
- 8. Fit outside lights that have motion detectors** - Burglars don't like to be seen, so this works as an excellent deterrent and will also alert you and your neighbours of any intruders.
- 9. Fit an alarm** - Again this is another good deterrent, burglars don't like to draw attention to themselves. It should also reduce your insurance premiums. Make sure you turn it on though, many insurance companies will refuse to pay out if you tell them that you have got an alarm and they find out that it wasn't turned on when you were burgled. Make sure that any faults are repaired; neighbours will ignore your alarm if it's constantly going off.
- 10. Make sure that car keys are not visible through your windows or doors** - Many houses are broken into purely to steal an expensive car that is sitting on the driveway.
- 11. Never leave your car running on the drive whilst carrying out maintenance or defrosting the windscreen** - This type of crime is very common especially on a frosty morning, car thieves are often on the look out for this.
- 12. Never leave keys under the mat or flower pot** - This is the first place a burglar will look, instead consider leaving them with a relative or trusted neighbour.
- 13. Change your locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.**
- 14. Change all the locks when you move into a new house** - There may be a number of previous occupants that still have a key.
- 15. Don't leave ladders lying around** - These will help burglars to gain access to high level windows that may have been left open, especially on a warm summer's night.
- 16. Keep your garage and shed locked** - Burglars will use your tools to help them break into your home.
- 17. Apply glue to screw heads on hinges + hasps and staples on shed doors** - This will reduce the risk of burglars gaining easy access.

18. **Consider using gravel if thinking of changing the driveway** - This makes a lot of noise and will deter intruders from walking over it.
19. **If going on holiday always cancel the milk and papers and ask one of the neighbours to make sure that your post isn't protruding from the letterbox. If you have time, try and cut the grass before you leave, especially if**

- you're going away for a couple of weeks.**
20. **And finally make sure that you close and lock your doors and windows every time you go out even if it's only for a very short period (e.g. popping around next door) -** Most burglars' are opportunist thieves and they can be in and out in seconds.

Hopefully, the above will help reduce the risk of you getting burgled, however if you feel that you need any additional assistance, ARVCO carry out FREE no-obligation security surveys, so please give us a call (**FREE on 0800 285 1777**), we are more than happy to help.

ARVCO Locksmith Services

Making Your Home Secure

**We DON'T
Charge VAT!**

ARVCO are a Locksmith Company based in Tipton that believes customer service always comes first. Our Aim is to provide a high level of service at an affordable price. All our Engineers undergo a CRB (Police) check & carry an identification card. We are also a member of the National Network of Approved Locksmiths & we have carried out work for both Walsall & Wolverhampton Councils.

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