

# checklist

Winter Security #NHSM2023  
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## Does your home security need updating, but you're unsure where to start?

The National Home Security Month team is on hand to help make sure your home is protected and secure as we head into the darker nights. To help ensure your home is as safe as possible, we've compiled a simple winter checklist, so you know you'll have all areas of your home covered.

### Let's start outside

It's important to check your perimeter fences, hedges, gates and walls. Even a relatively small gap in the fencing could be enough of a weakness to tempt a potential burglar to try their luck.

- Secure all gates around the property with a weatherproof, robust padlock
- Check fencing is secure and fix any broken panels
- Make sure bins or ladders are moved away from any flat roofs
- Lock any outbuildings, such as a shed, with hasps and weatherproof padlocks
- Alarm your outbuildings with a stand-alone, battery powered alarm
- Keep your tools or bikes secure with cables, anchors, and bike locks

**When outside also consider what could act as a visual deterrent to burglars, such as a visible alarm and outside lighting.**

- Put up lighting at the front, side and rear of property
- Secure an alarm bell box to an external wall
- CCTV cameras covering the front or back of the property can act as a deterrent, as well as capture footage
- A gravel driveway can make it difficult to approach a home quietly
- Keep any hedges trimmed to limit hiding places

### Front entrance

ONS statistics revealed in 76% of domestic burglaries cases in England and Wales, the burglar gained access through a door. 42% of people don't lock both their door and windows<sup>2</sup>, and so, it's more important than ever to keep your front door secure.

- Can you see who's at the door without opening it? If not, you can install a door chain or viewing hole
- Upgrade to a smart lock for more convenient security
- Make sure your door locks are up to the highest standard
- Timber doors should be secured with a mortice lock or nightlatch which meet British Standard BS3621
- PVCu or Composite doors should have a cylinder which meets Kitemark TS007
- Using a TS008 Kitemarked letterplate restrictor can prevent letterbox fishing

### Inside the property

In recent years there has been a significant increase in smart home tech, including smart security.

**When securing the inside of the property, a mix of smart and mechanical security can provide both convenience and peace of mind.**

- Install an alarm system, or check existing system is working efficiently
- Secure any PIR sensors inside, making sure all entrances are covered
- Check all windows have keys and can be locked
- Install an internal smart security camera, to keep a check on the inside of the home from anywhere
- Keep all valuable items out of view of windows
- Ensure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working efficiently
- A bolted home safe can keep laptops, jewellery and other valuables secure

For further information and advice, please visit [www.homesecuritymonth.com](http://www.homesecuritymonth.com) or search for National Home Security Month on Facebook and Twitter  