

Each year, nearly half a million homes are targeted by burglars.

Figures from the British Crime Survey show that households with no home security measures are more likely to be victims of burglary.

Home security should make the burglar's job too difficult, time-consuming, noisy or risky, compared to alternative targets.



Securing your home needn't be expensive, but should be seen as an investment in protecting your family, home and possessions. Some insurance companies will give discounts on insurance premiums on properties where professionally installed security measures have been put in place.

The top tips overleaf cover some vital ways that you can enhance your home's security. Take a look and then seek further advice from a BSIA member or your local Police Crime Prevention Officer.



Quality matters

One of the most important factors when considering your home's security is ensuring that all your security measures have been sourced from professional companies that provide effective products and services. Details of BSIA member companies that comply with relevant standards can be found by visiting www.bsia.co.uk or calling the BSIA helpline on **01905 342020**.

Top tips



Physical security measures are the very backbone of your home's security. Ensure you fit good quality locks to your doors. Fit locks to your windows, especially those that are on the ground floor or are accessible, for example, from a flat roof. Remember that your garage or shed will also need a quality lock in order to protect its contents.



Doors and windows should be strong and in good condition, ensure that you fit a door or window that complies with PAS 24-1 'Enhanced security performance requirements for doorsets and windows in the UK'.



Fencing and gates should be substantial and well-maintained, with locks fitted on entrances to a property.



Security lighting can deter a thief from trespassing onto a property and can draw attention to an incident if a crime is taking place.



A monitored intruder alarm will make a real impact on deterring a criminal from entering a property and alert a monitoring centre if an alarm is triggered. Your BSIA installer will advise you as to which system best meets your needs. Alarms should meet the European Standard for intruder alarms, EN 50131-1, and should be maintained on a regular basis.



Ensure that your possessions are marked with an asset marking system and registered on a secure database. Property marking can deter opportunist theft and also means that if a burglary does take place and your possessions are recovered, they can be returned to you.



Remember that the contents of your rubbish can put you at risk of becoming a victim of identity theft. Shred any documents that have personal details on them, including those which simply contain your name and address.

Further advice

Your local Police Crime Prevention Officer will give you leaflets and advice on home security and may make a personal visit. BSIA members will also give advice on how to secure your home and the best security measures for your property and risk.

The British Security Industry Association is the trade association covering all aspects of the professional security industry in the UK. Its members provide over 70% of UK security products and services and adhere to strict quality standards.

For more information see www.bsia.co.uk, email info@bsia.co.uk or telephone **01905 342020**.