

# DARKER NIGHTS, TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS!

 **SECURE**

 **PROTECT**

 **PREVENT**



A dark house  
will look empty to a  
burglar. Make sure it  
looks like you're in.  
[Turn over for more tips.](#)

During the winter months, burglary increases by 12.8%. Most burglars are opportunists and will look for ways to enter your home where they find an insecure point.

These are just a few actions you can take to make your home more secure.

Close and lock all windows and doors every time you leave your house or go to bed

Make sure your door is locked properly i.e. lift the handle, turn the key and then remove the key

Do not leave your keys by the front door or in view of windows but ensure they are easy to access should you need to get out in an emergency

If you have a burglar alarm, use it at all times, even when you're just popping out or zone off areas before going to bed

Secure your boundaries and ensure access to your garden is not easily obtained

Secure your sheds and garages as they contain valuable items and tools that can be used to break into your home

Leave lights on, or on timers to give the impression your house is occupied

Don't leave valuable items on display

Mark your property and register your items free on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Do not 'check in' on social media, as this identifies your house is empty

For more information on how to keep your property secure during the winter months, visit:

**[essex.police.uk/secure](http://essex.police.uk/secure)**

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