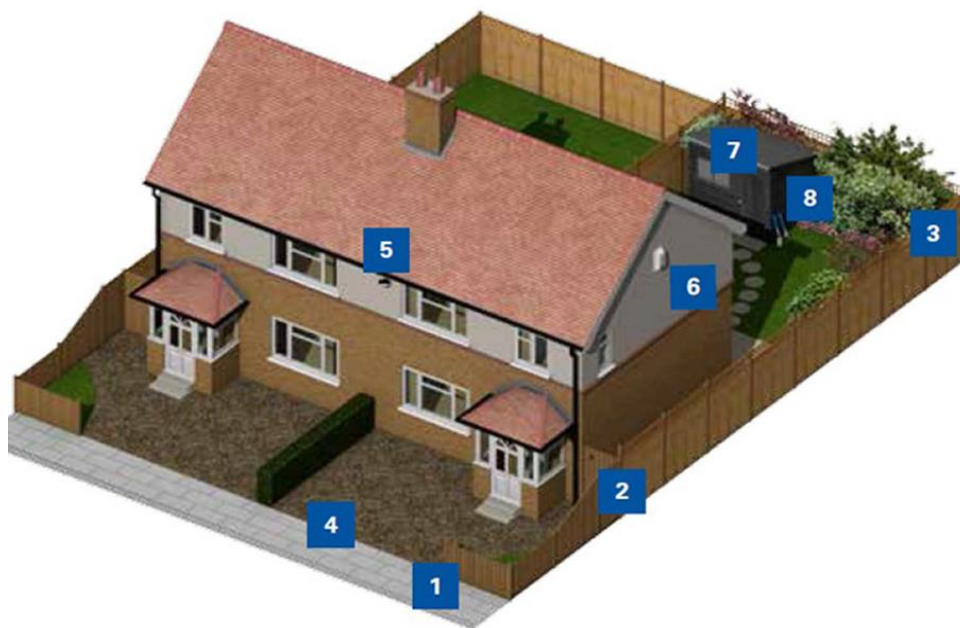


## Burglary Advice



1. **Low front boundary;** keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.

2. **Secure side gate;** keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.

Ensure access to the side and rear of the property is restricted (lockable gates). Move items that can be used to climb on, such as wheelie bins.

3. **High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting;** keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.

4. **Gravel driveway and path;** gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.

5. **Security light or/and CCTV;** installing these devices assisting in stopping intruders without being seen.

For advice and approved suppliers of CCTV visit the [National Security Inspectorate](#) and the [Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board](#).

6. **Intruder alarm system;** install a burglar alarm system.

7. **Secure shed door and window;** always keep your shed locked and secured. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.

8. **Never leave tools lying around;** Keep ladders and tools stored away. Remove any loose objects from the garden, such as bricks. These could be used to break into your home.

### Safes

There are two options – either a home safe or a safety deposit vault.

If you opt for a safe in your home, make sure it's fire rated. Home safes are also insurance rated according to the type and value of items designed to be kept inside, so check with your insurance company first to make sure you're adequately covered.

Position the safe carefully so it won't be easily discovered. Don't put it in your bedroom as this is the first place a burglar will look.

Make sure you bolt your safe to a wall or floor.

For more information on safes, see [Secured By Design](#).

If you have a large amount of family gold or jewellery, consider using a safety deposit vault. This removes the risk of storing valuables in your own home and can also make your home less of a target to burglars.