

## **Burglary prevention advice from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The team, led by Detective Sergeant Vinny Wagjiani, PC Neil Ware, PC Katie Jarrett and Police Community Support officers Chris Wright, Tom Smythe, Chloe Holland - Skinner and Chris Dell are the dedicated Officers looking after your neighbourhood.

In partnership we tackle a whole host of Neighbourhood Issues that supports our force commitments: - Protecting our communities, Pursuing offenders and Preventing crime. Our collaborated problem solving approach to minimise Burglaries to your area is based on research our team has completed and the fact that it is an affluent area we have provided some useful pieces of prevention advice to support you in getting your homes safer.

Here's what we recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage
- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

### **Thinking of going away?**

Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings stay safe while you're away:

1. if you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

If you would like to contact the local Neighbourhood team regarding any other issues please use the following:

[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

Facebook: Reigate and Banstead Beat (Surrey Police)

Twitter: @ReigateBeat

**By Katie Jarrett (Surrey Police)**