

CABINTEELY GARDA STATION: 01 666 5400

Put this number on your phone (and on your fridge door)

Foxrock South Area Neighbourhood Watch SECURITY CHECKLIST

It is important to think about the security of your family, your property and your neighbourhood

YOU

1. If you are planning a night out make sure someone knows where you're going and when you should be back
2. Your personal safety is paramount. Never put yourself at risk. Keep to bright, well-lit areas, carry your phone and if in doubt phone the Garda
3. Make a list of all the cards you have in your wallet or purse, and have the numbers of who you need to call in the event of theft to cancel them. Don't keep your address in your wallet or purse
4. Never put your travel plans on Facebook or Twitter or other social media sites
5. Protect yourself from identity theft. Shred or burn all documents with personal information on it as identity theft is becoming more prevalent. This includes anything with your name, address, date of birth, purchase receipts on debit or credit cards, financial statements, utility bills etc. Change your online account passwords regularly and don't reuse passwords across accounts. Never write your passwords down
6. Never entertain 'cold calls' from your bank, credit card company, electricity or gas providers. Call them back on the official number only. They will pretend to be calling for security checks/fraud/delivery charges etc. They are scammers.
7. Never put your name, house name or address on your key-ring
8. Programme the number for Cabinteely Garda station into your mobile

YOUR HOME

1. Secure all doors and windows. Keep external doors locked at all times and if you want to leave your windows open, install secure restrictors. Install a wide angled viewer in your front door. Install a sturdy door restrictor/chain.
2. Keep shrubs in your garden well maintained. Don't give burglars easy cover
3. Never leave a key outside. Thieves look in all the likely hiding places. Close and lock all outside garages, sheds and gates. There is no point in giving the burglar easy access to tools or ladders they can use to break in
4. Always make it seem as if your home is occupied. Use timer controls for radio, lights etc.
5. When on holiday, if you have a driveway try to have a car parked in it. Ask a trusted neighbour or friend to tidy your mail regularly and if you are to have a prolonged absence try to have someone cut your lawn. Cancel any deliveries.
6. If you move into a new home where there have been previous residents make sure to change all locks, as many people would have had the opportunity to make copies
7. Ensure your outer doors, locks, hinges and frames are secure & patio doors are properly secured with auxiliary locks
8. Close your blinds. Don't showcase your property to an opportunistic burglar

9. Never leave handbags, wallets, car keys, jewellery, laptops, iPads, mobile phones, etc. lying around. You shouldn't make the burglars decision easier
10. A really good exercise is go around the outside of your house as though you were locked out, and see what way you could possibly gain entry. Burglars have recently been targeting sheds in our area looking for tools, both to steal and to use to gain entry to houses
11. Install a house alarm or CCTV that you can monitor from your computer or mobile phone
12. Burglars almost always ransack bedroom wardrobes and drawers, look under the bed, bathroom cabinets, kitchen cupboards, behind fitted unit kickboards, medicine cabinets, the back of the hot-press etc.
13. If you have a safe, bolt it down. They may not have time to open it but they might take it with them if they can
14. Don't leave anything visible in your car in your driveway
15. Don't leave anything visible in your hall
16. Locked double patio door are very easy to open. Install an interior lock that bolts the handles together
17. Many exterior doors use a standard 'Euro cylinder' lock which is very easy to snap off if the barrel protrudes more than 6-8mm. The thief simply pulls the snapped lock barrel out and opens the remaining latch with a screw-driver. Check your doors lock barrels are flush – many doors are fitted with the wrong barrel length locks
18. A barking dog is a great deterrent to would be burglars

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

1. There have been a number of break-ins, both successful and attempted in our area in the past
2. Burglars knock on doors of houses that seem unoccupied. They will often revisit a street to check for cars in driveways, lights not coming on, which houses have elderly residents etc.
3. Often they pose as charity collectors, repair-people, utility workers, casual workmen just passing (noticing a loose tile or tree needing pruning, asking if a car is for sale, if a neighbour is in as they have a delivery etc.).
4. If they don't get an answer they will often try doors to test if an alarm goes off or to check if the door is fully deadlocked and watch for the response
5. Never encourage beggars or collectors in the area
6. Over 40% of burglaries occur in winter between 5pm and 11pm, often when the house is occupied
7. Almost 50% gain access through the rear windows or doors out of view of the street via a side passage or via a neighbour's garden
8. Become aware and notice anything unusual. A van parked where it shouldn't be. People just sitting in a car on a street. A strange car parked outside a house where there are elderly residents. Collectors only calling to certain houses. Take note of strange car make and registration numbers if you are uneasy, but always remember never to endanger yourself in any way
9. If in doubt call the Garda. They are the professionals and know how to respond to incidents.