

## Press release

09 August 2007

### **Top tips for keeping your home burglary proof this summer**

With many of us planning our summer holidays in the countryside or abroad, Hackney Homes and Hackney Borough Police are reminding residents that a few simple tasks will help keep homes safe from the preying eyes of burglars.

Open side gates, accessible windows left open and ladders left out all make access to a property far simpler and encourage a prospective burglar to take a second look.

Hackney Crime Prevention Officer, PC Sean Whelan said “Whilst burglary has dropped by over 25% in Hackney last year, there are still many opportunists who will select a house because there are few obstacles in their way. A house that looks empty and not very secure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured.”

Some simple things you can do to discourage a burglar are:

- Make sure you never leave a spare key concealed anywhere near the front door - burglars know all the hiding places.
- Never label your house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands.
- Keep valuables out of sight from windows.

A good tip when you are on holiday away from home this summer is to make your property look like it is occupied. You can do this by:

- Installing timers which switch lights or radios on and off automatically;
- Asking a neighbour or friend pop round to clear your letterbox or doorstep; and
- Drawing the curtains, leaving some lights on and a radio playing.

Hackney Homes Estate Safety Manager, Wayne Hylton says “Our residents should feel safe in their homes and on estates. We are working closely with the police to look at ways to prevent burglaries including schemes such as the Safer Cities Doors Programme which is providing stronger and more secure doors for residents. Residents can play their part by being aware of security, especially when they are away from home”.

### **Ends**

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Our mission is to deliver excellent, responsive housing services with decent homes and estates. To help residents lead healthy lives in safe and sustainable communities.

[www.hackneyhomes.org.uk](http://www.hackneyhomes.org.uk)