

PRIVATE SECTOR TENANTS

If you are renting your property, good home security is very important to prevent burglary. Burglary has dropped over the past ten years, but is still a risk if your property is not properly secured.

Responsibility for home security is shared between you and the landlord.

Security features to look out for when renting a property:

- A 5 lever mortice lock for external timber doors or a 3 multi-point locking system for PVC-u external doors.
- Window locks. These can be attached to most types of window but must not be attached to designated escape windows.
- Door chains.

In a shared property (eg block of flats), the **freeholder or appointed manager** is responsible for ensuring the main entrance door to a shared property has a proper lock.

The **landlord** should provide security to reduce the risk of entry by an intruder but it is **your responsibility** to use any home security features in your home.

- Dead lock your door
- Lock your windows
- If you have one, set your alarm every time you leave the property
- Use timer switches when you are on holiday or out for the evening
- Don't let anyone you don't recognise follow you into your block

But make sure you and your family can safely escape from your home in the event of a fire.



YOU SHOULD:

- Look for properties and landlords who have been accredited by the council or another recognised accreditation body. Their accreditation will normally include appropriate security standards.
- Speak to your landlord first if you are concerned that your doors and windows aren't secure.
- Contact the private sector housing team at your local council if this doesn't resolve your concerns. Depending on the level of risk the council may:
 - Work with the landlord to improve security
 - Provide financial or practical assistance
 - Use their powers under the Housing Health & Safety Rating System force the landlord to make improvements
- Contact your local council about home improvement grants which may be available to improve home security
- Join or set up a residents' association or Neighbourhood Watch scheme www.mynhw.co.uk