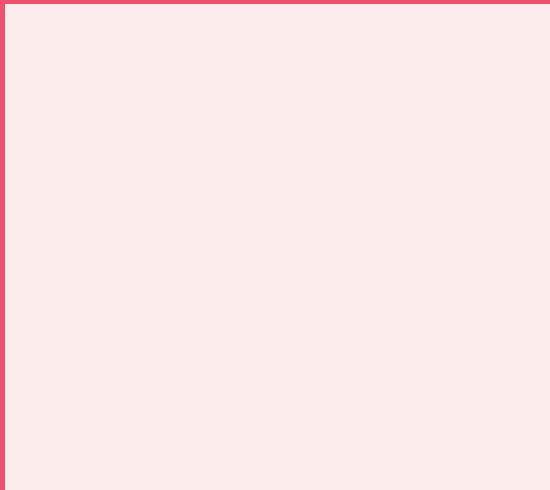


- Look into ways of making your home more secure for the future. Some security measures can be expensive. But there are other things you can do that cost much less, such as leaving lights or a radio on when you go out and checking that all doors and windows are properly closed and locked.
- You will need a crime reference number from the police if you have home insurance and want to make a claim.

About us

Victim Support is the national charity for people affected by crime. Our services are free, confidential and available to everyone, whether or not a crime has been reported to the police.

Contact your local Victim Support office



Burglary

Information and
advice from
Victim Support



Victim Supportline can also put you in
touch with your local Victim Support office

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Burglary is a serious but very common crime. It is estimated that there are around a million incidents in the UK each year. Burglaries can happen in many different ways. You may have been away from home at the time. Perhaps someone tricked their way into your house, or you were busy or asleep. And a burglary isn't always a one-off event – some people may have been burgled several times or may be suffering other crimes as well, such as harassment.

Victim Support can help

We get in touch with 1.7 million people affected by crime each year. However you are feeling, and whenever the burglary or other crimes took place, you can talk to someone from Victim Support free of charge and in complete confidence. We can help, whether or not you have told the police or anyone else.

Most victims of crime want to talk to someone about what has happened and how they are feeling. Friends and family can be very helpful, but our volunteers are specially trained to listen and understand. We can also give useful information to help you deal with some of the problems a crime has caused. And we can offer practical help too.

Burglary affects people in many different ways, even if none of their property has been stolen. Most people are upset just at the thought that someone has been in their home against their wishes. Some people no longer feel secure in their home after a burglary. Children in particular can be frightened. However you are affected, you can contact Victim Support.

How we can help

We help people who have been burgled in a number of ways.

- We can organise practical help such as arranging for someone to come and fit a new lock or replace a broken window.
- People who have been burgled often need specialist advice to help prevent it happening again. We can put you in touch with the right people if we can't help you to sort it out ourselves.
- Many victims of burglary feel much better after talking to someone who is trained to listen and who is independent of friends and family. A trained Victim Support volunteer can visit you at home.
- If you are having problems as a result of crime we can also help you to deal with people such as your landlord, the housing department, police, social security, or insurance company.

How to contact us

Most people are referred to us by the police when they report a crime. But anyone can contact us directly if they want to. You can find local contact details on the back page of this leaflet, on the Victim Support website (www.victimsupport.org) or in the phonebook. You can also call the Victim Supportline on 0845 30 30 900 for support and information.

We hope that you will get in touch with us, but if you decide not to now, you can call us at any point in the future.

Some practical ideas

There are a number of ways to improve home security to help reduce the likelihood of another burglary.

- Try to get your home secured as quickly as possible. If you are in rented housing, tell your landlord about any necessary repairs. If you own your home, you will need to make your own arrangements. Victim Support can help with this.
- You will also need to let various organisations and officials know if certain things have been taken. Things to check for include bank cards, cheque books, passports, benefit books, mobile phones, birth certificates and driving licences. It's particularly important to tell banks quickly so that they can prevent fraud and further theft.