

ARE YOU SAFE IN YOUR HOME?

For most Britons, their home is their safe place. It's a place to come back to after a day at work, to raise a family in and to relax in.

BUT HOW SAFE IS IT, REALLY?

THE NUMBER OF BURGLARIES IN THE UK ARE FALLING.

The incidents in 2016 were...

and...



from the same period 10 years earlier (Jan-Dec 2005)

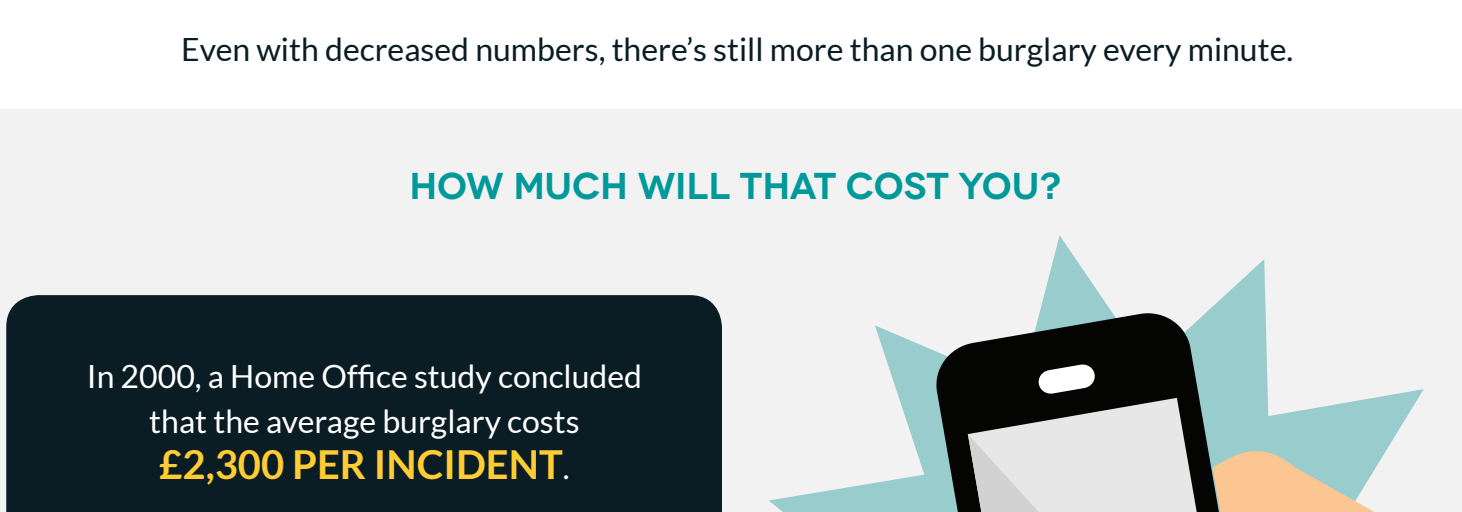


from just 20 years ago (Jan-Dec 1995).

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS, THERE WERE...

400,361

POLICE-REPORTED BURGLARIES



April 2015 and March 2016 - giving a burglary rate of **7 offences per 1,000 people**

THIS MEANS THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED:



Even with decreased numbers, there's still more than one burglary every minute.

HOW MUCH WILL THAT COST YOU?

In 2000, a Home Office study concluded that the average burglary costs **£2,300 PER INCIDENT.**

Adjusted for inflation, that figure is now **£3,600.**

That's not even counting the rise in commonly stolen electronic devices such as smartphones, which cost an average of **£180 EACH**, and laptops, which cost **£692 EACH** on average.



With burglaries an ever-present threat, it's hard not to ask:

HOW DO YOU DEFEND YOUR HOME?

DO YOU LIVE IN SAFETY?

According to price comparison site, MoneySuperMarket, London is more burglary prone than other areas in the UK. In fact, the ten areas with the highest rate of burglary in the UK are in our capital:

MOST BURGLIED POSTCODES



The data also documents the UK postcodes with the lowest number of offences. If you live in Harbury, Derry or Bishopston, it's good news – you're living in some of the UK's safest areas.

SAFEST POSTCODES



SECURING YOUR HOME

A BRIEF HISTORY

Throughout history, people have made efforts to secure their homes to prevent the theft of their belongings. This began with a number of weapons and tools before morphing into the systems we use today.

MESOPOTAMIA AND ANCIENT EGYPT

Beginning with a simple wooden bolt across two brackets, locks in ancient history progressed rapidly. In periods dating as far back as **2,000BC**, Egyptians began using pin tumbler locks made of wood that used a lock and key to provide access externally. This would then be improved with metallic tumbler locks in Roman times.

1



INSERT KEY

2



LIFT KEY TO PUSH PINS UPWARDS

3



KEEP KEY UP AND PULL BOLT OUT

EFFECTIVE NOW?

Deadbolts and secure locks are still one of the most important factors in protecting yourself against burglary.



Around **30%** of all burglaries are through an open or unlocked window or door.

A home without a security system is **300%** more likely to be burgled.

ANCIENT ROME

Domesticated since ancient times, guard dogs were used in ancient Rome to protect property.

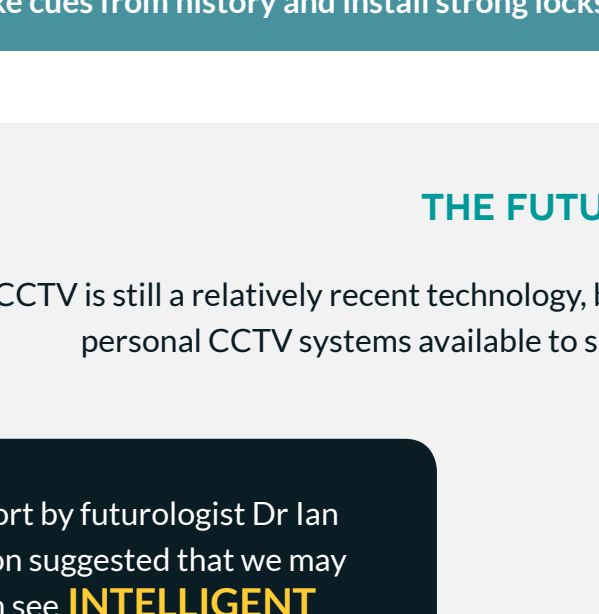
Poet Virgil said:

"Never, with them on guard, need you fear for your stalls a midnight thief."

EFFECTIVE NOW?

A study by the University of North Carolina surveyed **422 burglars** to establish what put them off burgling a property.

Only a small percentage of the offenders said they'd continue a burglary if there was a dog in the home.



Confusingly, the current UK legislation through the Dangerous Dogs Act means that you can be **PROSECUTED** IF YOUR DOG BITES A TRESPASSER IN YOUR GARDEN.

But there is a **DEFENCE** if your dog **BITES A TRESPASSER INSIDE YOUR HOME.**

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

A castle was a fortified holding, popular throughout Europe in response to the increase of raids and invasions. They consisted of a number of defence mechanisms, such as:

ARROW SLITS

Areas for defenders to attack with impunity.

HIGH WALLS

With large, stoned walls, castles were almost impossible to climb.

DRAWBRIDGE

A huge gate, which would only be lowered internally.

MOATS

Deep ditches provided a preliminary line of defence.



EFFECTIVE NOW?

In the US, the **Castle Doctrine** is a law that varies by state and governs a homeowner's right to attack an intruder to protect themselves, **sometimes even with deadly force.**

Most of us aren't rich enough to afford a castle, or the multitude of guards you'd need to defend it. However, make your home difficult to enter by...

LOCKING YOUR WINDOWS

REMOVING BINS NEAR YOUR GARAGE

MODERN SECURITY SYSTEMS

ALARMS AND CCTV

Modern security systems came into being in the mid 1800s.

1853

First electromagnetic alarm system, created by **Augustus Pope**

1857

First electrical alarm system company set up by **Edwin Holmes**

1942

CCTV as a live monitoring solution for Germany's V-2 rockets

1949

Promoted by American contractors **Vericon**

1966

Home CCTV was invented by nurse **Marie Van Brittan Brown**

WHAT'S EFFECTIVE IN THE MODERN AGE?

A combination of new security systems and older solutions is proving very effective at repelling burglars and deterring crime.

ALARMED PROPERTIES

Alarms are a big deterrent in the U.S., with around...

of burglars surveyed admitting they avoid houses with alarms in place.

LOCKING UP IS VITAL

Window locks, indoor lights on a timer, double door locks and external motion sensor lights were found to make a home almost...

than a home without security – according to a study by the Royal Statistical Society.

CCTV

Research by the University of Leicester found that CCTV use in Newcastle and King's Lynn reduced recorded offences in the burglary and vehicle crime areas.

It's a more expensive system than most, with just **5%** of the **1,292** surveyed having home CCTV systems installed.

DEFENDING YOUR HOME

To defend your home, a combination of systems and common sense can prevent crime. With the right methods in place, you'll be able to deter potential burglars.

Take cues from history and install strong locks, lighting and experiment with alarms.

THE FUTURE?

CCTV is still a relatively recent technology, but it has already been challenged by personal CCTV systems available to smartphone and tablet owners.

A report by futurologist Dr Ian Pearson suggested that we may soon see **INTELLIGENT ALARMS** that can communicate with one another, **DIRECTIONAL SOUND EMITTING ALARMS** that disorientate intruders and even affordable **ROBOTIC SECURITY GUARDS.**

With the price of technology dropping and home CCTV systems now available for free through Android apps, the future looks bright.

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