



Vecinos Cooperando y Colaborando de España Neighbourhood Watch Association in Spain



ABSENTEE VILLA OWNERS

The Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and Policia Local highly recommend that during long absences from your property you should appoint a neighbour or someone else as a key-holder during your absence. NHW have produced a form that gives the person you have appointed, the authority to enter your premises in your absence. Your Branch Co-ordinator will be able to give you the form to complete before you go away. In the event of a break-in your insurance company and police will want to contact you urgently, so filling out the form completely, which should be held by the key holder, is important.

SOME USEFUL TIPS WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

If you have a mail delivery box ask a neighbour to empty it regularly if you are away. An overfull mail box indicates that the house is unoccupied and makes it easier for thieves to steal mail. Ask them to remove flyers that are wedged into your gates.

If you use a personal message on your telephone do not indicate that you are away in the UK or on holiday. Use words to give the impression that you are currently unable to take the call and will get back to the caller as soon as possible.

Most blinds are for keeping the house cool in summer and they have very little security benefit, so always leave some at least partially opened with the curtains drawn. This gives the appearance that the house is occupied.

On long absences from your home make sure your neighbours know and arrange for someone to keep the garden tidy – again giving the appearance that the property is occupied. Do not leave valuable tools and other items in the garden when you are not there.

For indoor lighting use timers on table lamps so that they switch on at dusk and off late at night. When away leave the hall or passage lamp on so that it can be seen from outside. Outside lamps by your entrance gate and on the wall can be replaced by low wattage bulbs with a daylight sensor so that they come on at dusk and go off at dawn. Apart from giving the impression that the house is occupied it helps getting the key in the lock when returning home in darkness!

Do not talk about your impending absence in the local bar or in earshot of anyone who may take advantage of your absence