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DAYLIGHT SAVING (THIEVES) TIME **Homes targeted by opportunist thieves as clocks go forward**

Homeowners leaving their homes exposed in Spring time face daylight robbery as opportunist thieves cash in on the clocks going forward.

Halifax Home Insurance reported a **10 per cent increase** in the value of burglary claims registered during the Spring months last year compared to 2011, which cost on average **£1,600** per claim.*

With around 700,000 gardens targeted last year,** Halifax Home Insurance is reminding households embracing the Spring to think carefully about simple ways to ramp up home safety as increased hours of daylight can turn homes into easy targets for the seasonal professional.

Martyn Foulds, senior claims manager, Halifax Home Insurance, said: "Despite a drop in the overall number of claims registered, the increase in value of each incident shows that thieves are becoming savvier, deciding in minutes if a home is a desirable target.

"Although it's a delight to be seeing brighter weather and let in the fresh air, it's important to ensure doors, windows, sheds and garages are securely locked and valuables are kept out of sight both inside and outside to protect your home from opportunist thieves prepared to pounce in broad daylight."

Tips from Halifax Insurance

- Don't leave valuables in close sight of windows and doors and ensure car keys are out of sight – this is an invitation to thieves and professionals will make an easy job
- Ensure windows, doors, sheds, gates, garages and outbuildings remain securely locked at all times
- Put bricks or stones in the bottom of patio tubs as a deterrent
- Mark valuable items such as patio furniture and ornaments with your postcode
- Keep photos of any garden/shed/garage valuables in case anything is stolen or vandalised
- Join a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- High walls, spiky fences and prickly bushes will discourage unwelcome visitors
- Gravel on driveways will help you hear someone approaching
- Avoid leaving tools, lawnmowers and bicycles in the garden – always lock them away out of sight. Remember tools and ladders can be used to break into the home too

Ends

Noes to Editors

*Halifax Home Insurance claims data (Spring months March, April and May inclusive)

Press Release



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** Crime Survey England & Wales Jan 2013

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