

Endsleigh Insurance Services



Endsleigh Security Campaign

On campus content pack

To be used between 12/10/15 to 30/11/15

6 reasons to lock your door at uni



When starting uni, little things like locking your door can be the last thing on your mind. It's a common mentality to think that someone breaking in and potentially stealing something would never happen to you. However, it's not impossible for someone to get into your uni accommodation if they wanted to. Therefore it's good to take precautions - so here are six reasons why locking your door really is for the best!

1. Pranks

Everyone's seen the multitude of photos online showing what can happen if your room is left unlocked. It can range from their entire room being moved to the kitchen, filled with full cups of water, or covered in newspaper. If you don't want to be the subject of any number of uni room pranks then it would be wise to lock your door (equally, playing these pranks on other people makes you a prime target so take extra care with your rooms, pranksters)!

2. Escapism

Sometimes university life can be quite hectic and you may feel like you never get a moment's peace. Going to your room for a couple of hours and locking the door may give you some much needed alone time. Locking yourself away for a few hours with no distractions in order to get big uni assignments done is also a necessary evil. Sometimes simply locking your door could help get you in the right mind set to get down to some work.

3. Security

The simplest way to ensure that all your valuables are kept safe from being taken is by locking them in your room when you aren't there. In many halls it's really not difficult to get inside - even if you completely trust your flatmates, it's best to keep your door locked just in case someone from outside the flat gets in. Remembering to lock your door every day can save you a lot of stress that you really don't need on top of your studies, particularly if something does get taken.

4. Keeping track of your keys

If you're constantly using your keys then chances are you'll know where they are at all times. On the other hand, if you hardly ever use them you may forget where they are resulting in stress while you try to find them or having to pay a fine to replace them.

5. Keeping the peace

So you've left your door unlocked and something goes missing from your room, you don't know who it was so everyone is then under suspicion. It doesn't lead to a nice atmosphere for you or your flatmates. You wouldn't want anyone to suspect you of breaking into someone's room so to maintain a friendly environment it's far easier just to cut out any chance of hostility and lock up.

6. You'd lock your front door at home

Why do any different at university? You wouldn't want your house or car to be broken into, and at uni your room becomes a substitute for your 'house'. It's a good habit to get into in order to prevent more serious burglaries, and it's good practice for later on when you're living in your own house.

There are lots more factors to consider, so head to the [Endsleigh security matters pages](#) for hints and tips on how to stay safe at university.

How to keep your bike safe



How to protect your bike

It is estimated a bike gets stolen once every 60 seconds. Don't underestimate bike thieves – some may be wandering past and see a chance, but others are much more considered and calculated – even carrying tools! The trick is to make it as difficult as possible for them. Here's how:

1. Photograph it

Keep photographs of your bike. This will help the police and university locate and return your bike.

2. Mark It

Permanently mark your bike with police recommended products so it can be identified and returned to you if found by the police.

3. Insurance

Take out insurance on your bike and be sure to cover for thefts away from home. [Click here to cover your bike from as little as £27 a year*](#). Check with your insurance provider before you buy a lock, as some types will not be covered under your policy.

4. Keep it under lock and key

There are so many bike locks to choose from its bewildering, from the humble chain to the mighty D-lock, and choosing the right lock is really crucial when it comes to theft. While there are different advantages and disadvantages to bike locks, the D-lock is the one recommended by most universities and it's simple to use, too. Invest in a good lock. It's tempting to go for the £5 option – especially if money is tight – but it's that cheap for a reason (it's rubbish). Drop in at your university's security office for more info.

5. Register with the police

Your bike has a serial number and you can register this number with your local police station so that in the event that your bike is stolen, you have prior proof that the bike, if recovered, is yours.

6. Report it

If your bike does get stolen, report it to your university and police within 24 hours. Give them as much information as possible about your bike. Set up eBay and Gumtree alerts on bikes that match yours. The thief just might be silly enough to try to sell it on a public forum.

*Based on a bike up to the value of £149, in an area 1 postcode with a Halfords 1mtr integrated cable lock.

Head over to [Endsleigh's security matters site](#) to read the full article and make sure you're prepared.