



Newham London

How to keep your property secure

www.newham.gov.uk
020 8430 2000



How to keep your property secure

The problems

Every year the vacant property team hears of many crimes and problems associated with empty properties:

- vandalism and property damage
- theft of plumbing, boilers and roof flashings
- rubbish dumping
- fire
- property taken over and rented to innocent tenants
- fraudulent mortgages and loans raised on the property
- property deeds changed into someone else's name
- squatters
- drugs, crime and cannabis factories.

Avoid the risk

Insurance companies charge more for insuring empty properties and usually insist on special security measures. The best way to avoid all of these problems is to arrange for the property to be occupied. Second-best is to ensure that the property looks occupied as far as possible and is properly secured:

- contact your insurer and local police about security advice
- have net curtains, curtains or blinds in place

- have lights and radios on timers
- have a neighbour or cleaner regularly visit to remove mail, catalogues and telephone directories from view
- keep the front of the property and garden clean and tidy
- read the Land Registry guide *How to safeguard against property fraud* and follow the advice given.

Last resort

Where it is known in an area that a property is vacant, security screening or boarding up may be the only way to keep intruders out. However this is not 100% secure. It also advertises that the property is empty.

Useful information

For links to a range of useful information, including advice on crime prevention, security, squatters and safeguarding against property fraud please visit the council's empty property website www.newham.gov.uk/housing/privatesectorhousing/emptyproperties



For more information about empty properties please call the Private Sector Housing Team on 020 3373 1950 or email envprivate.sectorhousing@newham.gov.uk

Alternatively you can visit any of our local service centres at the locations listed below:

Beckton 1 Kingsford Way,
Beckton, E6 5JQ

Canning Town 3 Beckton Road,
Canning Town,
E16 4DT

Docklands 4 Pier Parade, Pier
Road, North
Woolwich, E16 2LJ

East Ham Town Hall Annexe,
330-354 Barking
Road, East Ham,
E6 2RT

Forest Gate 4-20 Woodgrange
Road, Forest Gate,
E7 0QH

Green Street 403-405 Green
Street, Upton Park,
E13 9AU

Manor Park 685-689 Romford
Road, Manor Park,
E12 5AD

Stratford 112-118 The Grove,
Stratford, E15 1NS