ProtectUK

Security lighting

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Setting up good security lighting

Well thought-out lighting discourages intruders and gives the impression that good security is practised.

Basic lights can be purchased and fitted at little cost, but consider:

- cost effectiveness – different lights have varying set-up and running costs (some lights are more suitable for constant illumination, while others are better for combining with passive infrared detectors)
- reliability and maintenance requirements
- statutory requirements regarding light nuisance
- CCTV systems (where fitted) will need sufficient light to be effective 24 hours a day

Lights can be activated by motion sensors or left switched on through the night, although studies have shown that a lower level of continual light is more effective as a deterrent than sudden, bright lights.

A good compromise is to use high-efficiency, low-energy lighting controlled by a photo-electric cell (dusk to dawn switch). This type of light, sited out of reach, provides ample illumination, with few shadows and costs only a few pounds a year to run – even when left on throughout the night.

A local counter terrorism security adviser (CTSA) or Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) can inspect your property and advise on the best combination of physical security (for example, fencing) and appropriate procedures (for example, checking key lists).

KEYWORDS

FERTILISER