

# Definitions

Definition of burglary according to the Theft Act 1986.

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**Section 9 of the Theft Act 1968** defines burglary as either:

- entering a building or part of a building as a trespasser with intent to commit theft, grievous bodily harm, or criminal damage
- stealing, or inflicting or attempting to inflict grievous bodily harm, having entered a building or part of a building as a trespasser

When that building is someone's home – their private living accommodation – it is referred to as residential burglary of a home. This is an invasion of a victim's personal space, causing trauma and undermining an individual's sense of safety and security.

**Home Office Crime Recording Rules** classification of burglary has been amended to make it easier to accurately record residential burglary. Classification is in two parts.

1. Residential burglary of a home
2. Residential burglary of unconnected building

## Residential burglary of a home

This includes all buildings that:

- form part of the home (the victim's living space)
- are attached directly to and provide access to the home via a connecting door

It also includes other premises used for residential purposes, such as houseboats, residential care homes and hostels.

## Residential burglary of an unconnected building

This classification includes residential buildings within the boundary of a victim's property that either:

- do not form part of the home and are not attached directly to the home
- are attached directly to the home, but there is no access via a connecting door

Where an unconnected building within the boundary is used solely for business purposes, this should be recorded as burglary – business and community.

This practice guide relates to residential burglary of the home and unconnected buildings.

## Tags

Neighbourhood policing