

Safe home security checklist

Your home should be a place where you and your family can feel safe and secure. Unlawful entry crimes are often opportunistic, meaning the crime will only be committed if the opportunity presents itself, such as by leaving a door or window open or valuables in public view. Carry out an inspection of your home to identify areas where security could be improved.

External

- Is your house number clearly visible from the street? Y N
- Could offenders be seen in your front or backyard? Y N
- Are your perimeter fences in good condition? Y N
- Can the gate/garage be securely locked? Y N
- Are entry and exit points clearly lit? Y N
- Is there security lighting installed around your property? Y N
- Is your letterbox fitted with a lock? Y N
- Can your electricity box be locked? Y N

Doors

- Are the main exterior entry doors of solid construction? Y N
- Are external entry doors fitted with standard deadlocks? Y N
- Are keys removed from locks and out of sight when no one is at home? Y N
- Is a security/screen door installed? Y N

Windows

- Are window lock sets fitted? Y N
- Are unused windows permanently closed & secured? Y N
- Are skylights suitably secured? Y N

Property Identification

- Have you made a list of your valuable items? Y N
- Are your valuable items marked for police identification? Y N
- Is your jewellery secured? Y N
- Have you photographed your valuable items? Y N

Other Safety Considerations

- Are emergency numbers keyed into your telephone or saved to your mobile? Y N
- Do you know your neighbours? Y N
- Do you have a well-stocked first aid kit? Y N
- Is your house protected with working smoke detectors? Y N

If you answer 'no' to any of the questions above, recommended actions to increase the security of your home are suggested over page.

External

Ensure your house number is clearly visible from the street. This will assist emergency services to locate your home.

Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to reduce hiding places in and around your home.

Overhanging branches should be trimmed to prevent people using them to access other parts of the property.

Ensure all perimeter fences are in good working order and that gates/garages are kept closed and locked to restrict unauthorised access to your property.

Security lighting should be installed at entry/exit points and around the perimeter of the property to provide more effective illumination during the hours of darkness.

Security lighting should be checked and maintained in good working order.

Consider using light timers to turn lights on/off when not at home.

Letterbox and electricity box locks: Letter and electricity boxes should have appropriate locks to ensure access is restricted. Remember that locks on electricity boxes need to comply with your electricity provider's requirements to ensure they remain accessible for the provider.

Doors

External doors and frames should be of solid construction. These doors should be fitted with quality deadlock sets, which comply with the Australia/New Zealand Standards and Fire Regulations (Australian Building Code) to enable occupants to escape in emergency situations such as fires.

Locks should be checked and maintained on a regular basis to ensure they are in good working order.

Doors should be secured, and keys, including those for your car, should be removed from locks and the view of passersby while you are absent.

Security/screen doors can be used to provide additional protection.

Windows

Windows should be secured with key operated locks to restrict unauthorised access.

Property Identification

Record descriptions, models and serial numbers, and mark of all your valuables to assist in easy identification should they be reported lost or stolen.

Photograph jewellery and other collectables for easy identification.

Don't leave valuables in clear view.

Other Safety Considerations

Keep a list of emergency numbers by your phone or saved in your phone in case of emergencies.

Communication with neighbours builds a safer community and allows more people to watch over your home.

Ensure your first aid kit is well stocked and all products in date.

Smoke detectors save lives. All homes should be fitted with working smoke detectors. Test the smoke detector regularly using the 'Test' button to be sure it works. Change batteries once a year. Even a wired-in smoke detector has a battery in case of power failure so change that battery too.

For further information or assistance, please contact:

In the case of an EMERGENCY or a crime in progress, call Triple Zero **000**

To report information about a crime that has been committed, call Crime Stoppers **1800 333 000**

For confidential crisis support, call Lifeline **131 114**

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, call 1800RESPECT on **1800 737 732** or contact the Domestic Violence hotline on **1800 656 463**

