

Preventing Burglaries From Homes

Burglaries are a violation of your privacy and security. The personal impact and loss of irreplaceable items may be even greater than the value of the items stolen.

Most burglaries are opportunistic and occur during the day when residents are not at home. The most commonly stolen items include jewellery, cash, computers and other electrical equipment, however burglars will steal anything they find valuable. Use these tips to help protect your home and your personal belongings.

Burglary Prevention Checklist

Lock Up

Lock all windows and doors, even when you're at home. Unlocked side and rear doors and windows are the most common entry points for burglars

Install deadlocks on all external doors and windows – remember to disengage deadlocks when you are inside to allow easy escape in the event of a fire

Install a security screen door

Lock your mailbox to prevent the theft of mail and personal documents

Keep garden tools and ladders locked away. Your tools may be used by thieves during a burglary to gain entry to your home

Keep garages and sheds locked

Other Actions

Get to know your neighbours. They may recognise unusual activity when you're out

Bring in your bins and collect mail regularly so your home looks lived in. Ask a neighbour to bring your bin in if you are away for a while

Make sure your house is visible from the street so passersby and neighbours can detect suspicious activity

Cut overhanging branches and trim shrubs back from your house to make it harder for burglars to hide

Place packaging from newly purchased expensive items in the recycling bin – leaving boxes on the nature strip lets burglars know what you have inside

Consider having a dog

Install sensor lighting

Install a monitored alarm system

Check the details of any salesperson or workman that comes to your door. Report any suspicious activity to your local police

Consider installing a safe to store valuables

Backup computer hard drives

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch and be an active part of crime prevention in your community



Key Crime Prevention Tips

- **Lock** all doors and windows
- **Appearance:** Make it look like someone is home when you're out
- **Detect:** Make it harder for burglars to get in without being seen
- **Secure** valuables in a safe or hidden place

Key Security

- Only leave spare keys with a trusted neighbour. Never hide them on your property.
- Keep all spare keys or car keys in a secure place – car keys may be stolen in a burglary and used for car theft.

Mark Valuable Property

- Use an engraver or ultra-violet marker to identify your property. Marked property is harder to sell and easier to return if located.
- Mark with 'V' followed by your drivers licence number. i.e. V123456.
- Photograph valuables and record details on a property inventory form.

In The Event of Burglary

- Report any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood to police.
- If you have been burgled, do not touch anything. Call police on 911.

If somebody breaks in while you're at home:

- Get out or find a safe place, such as a secure room and call police on 911.
- The safety of yourself and others is more important than trying to prevent a burglary.