



HOME SAFETY FOR SENIORS

Opportunistic thieves often prey on elderly people's homes, viewing them as relatively easy burglary targets. Research has shown however that seniors who appear confident and take appropriate security precautions are less likely to become victims of crime in their home.

Seniors can gain greater peace of mind and reduce friends' and neighbours' concern by introducing the following common sense practices into their daily routine:

- Never tell anyone you are home alone, including tradespersons or delivery people.
- Don't leave keys outside your home – burglars will look in obvious places such as under the doormat or in the mailbox.
- Ensure that handbags and wallets are not visible from the outside of your home. For instance, avoid leaving them on tables or benches in sight of windows.
- Install security screens and grilles and fit deadlocks and key locks to doors and windows.
- Consider installing a safety chain and peep hole on front doors.
- Ensure your house number is clearly visible so that emergency authorities can easily identify your house if necessary.
- Trim trees and bushes and install motion sensor floodlights to remove potential hiding places and provide neighbours with a clear view of your home.
- Consider installing an alarm system.
- Get to know your neighbours, as they will be able to observe any suspicious behaviour around your home.
- Never give out your name or address to unknown callers and never disclose any personal or financial information.
- Keep all outbuildings locked to prevent home invaders from gaining access to tools.
- Pre-program emergency numbers into telephones.
- Contribute to community safety by getting involved in volunteer community policing and neighbourhood watch programs in your local area

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- Install a padlock and viewing window on your meter box to prevent interference with the power supply

You can gain some financial peace of mind by purchasing insurance to protect your home and its contents. You should keep a record of valuable possessions and photograph valuable jewellery, and ensure that you have adequate insurance coverage.

QBE is committed to providing homeowners with peace of mind. We offer special seniors' discounts for building and home contents insurance. Contact FCCS on 1300 361 555] or visit fccs.com.au for further information.

Important Notes

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