



IS YOUR HOME A BURGLARY TARGET?

Home invasion and loss of property is a primary concern for homeowners and renters alike. Whilst police action such as the targeting of repeat offenders and use of the latest DNA and fingerprinting technology are helping to reduce burglaries, there is still a lot that residents can do to protect their home and belongings.

You don't have to be a security expert to keep your home safe from burglars, and the following tips will help you take your home off the burglar market:

- **Join Neighbourhood Watch** – Benefit from police advice about crime prevention in your local area.
- **Mark your valuables** – Burglars look for highly portable items that they can sell quickly, so engrave your driver's licence number on your belongings as a deterrent.
- **Remove hiding places** – Increase visibility of your home by trimming trees and shrubs, installing flood lamps or motion sensor lights, and lowering your front fence if necessary.
- **Increase backyard security** – Construct fences or barriers at either side of your home to restrict intruder access.
- **Protect your power supply** – Use locks to prevent burglars from gaining access to your power supply, and install a viewing window for meter reading.
- **Install door and window locks** - Ensure that 'key in the knob' locks are backed up with security locks, and that key operated locks are fitted to aluminium sliding doors. Never leave a spare key outside the house.
- **Use security screens and doors** – To avoid having intruders break in whilst you are home, have security screens fitted to doors and windows that are left open for ventilation.
- **Get an alarm system** – Install a burglar alarm that meets Australian standards.
- **Make it look like someone's home** – If going out at night, switch on interior lights and consider using timing devices to turn on the television, radio or lights at selected times. Prior to going on holiday, cancel newspaper deliveries, ask a trusted neighbour to collect your mail and put out your bin, and divert your phone to a mobile or another number.

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You can protect yourself for incidences of home theft by listing and insuring your property. Keep a hardcopy list and photos of CDs, DVDs, jewellery and other valuable items and make sure you have current and adequate insurance cover for your home and contents.

If you have any questions about home and contents insurance, call FCCS on 1300 361 555] or visit fccs.com.au

Important Notes

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