



PROTECT YOUR HOME



A MESSAGE FROM NSW POLICE FORCE



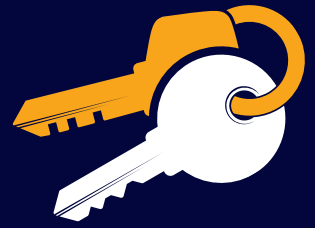
PROTECT YOUR HOME

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This brochure is intended to provide you with the latest information regarding crime prevention measures designed to protect your home. This information can assist in conducting your own home security assessment and knowledge to better protect your home and family from break and enter related crimes.

Youth & Crime Prevention Command

SECURE YOUR HOME



It's likely you've spent a lot of time, money and effort creating an enjoyable and safe home. It only makes sense you want to prevent thieves from gaining access to it and stealing your precious belongings. While you or someone you know will likely experience a break and enter (break-ins) during your life, most break-ins are easily preventable. Introducing a few simple and inexpensive changes to your home can significantly reduce the chances of these types of crimes occurring.

Break, enter and stealing incidents can have a serious impact on families and individuals in different ways. People can often feel violated and have difficulty overcoming the experience. By implementing these recommendations and adequately securing your home, you can reduce the likelihood of this crime occurring.



YOUR SECURITY

Home security starts with common sense. Many break-ins occur because people don't lock their doors. If you're leaving your home, even for a short time make sure all your doors and windows are locked.

DOORS & WINDOWS SIMPLE TIPS

It's easy to say 'lock your doors and windows', but there are many other things to consider when securing home.

- Do not leave keys in locks.
- Make sure your doors are solid and lock properly.
- Upgrade standard locks to deadlocks.
- Install a front door peep-hole.
- Sliding doors should have floor or ceiling key locks.
- Install garage door bolts.
- Internal garage doors should have locked or deadlocked.
- Use window locks.
- Consider shatter proof glass or protective film.
- Ensure doors and windows are mounted with non-removable screws.
- Consider installing metal security grilles or shutters. Ensure they are properly installed by professionals to adhere to building and fire safety codes.
- Remember - No window is too small to leave unlocked.



Like windows, people come in all shapes and sizes, so never assume someone won't fit through your window.

ALARMS AND CCTV

It's particularly important to increase your security following a break in as thieves may return to the 'scene of the crime' after the victims have had enough time to replace the stolen items with new items.

ALARM SYSTEMS

An intruder alarm system is a useful tool to enhance the security of your home. Ensure the system is manufactured and installed to the Australian Standards for Domestic Applications. The system should provide maximum coverage of the home and garage.

Ensure your alarm is visible from the street, makes a loud noise and be linked to a security service that monitors and responds when your alarm is activated.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)

Modern CCTV cameras and recording equipment are a cost effective preventative measure and powerful investigative tool.

Recording equipment may be wired permanently or temporarily positioned using wireless devices.

Recording equipment must have clear image resolution (HD) and be able to track moving targets.

Place camera's to capture vantage points outside and inside your home.

Learn how to review, download and copy footage into a viewable format.



SECURE YOUR VALUABLES

Most homeowners and renters spend thousands of dollars fitting their home with appliances and furnishings. All these items are investments which are worth protecting. The NSW Police Force have unique insights into what thieves' target, and who is most at risk.

The most common items stolen are jewelry and portable devices, like phones, tablets, gaming consoles and computers. It's not uncommon for thieves to steal large items, like TV's, artwork, appliances or musical instruments.

Properly securing your home is important, however the most important thing to do with your valuables is to keep a detailed property inventory.



PROPERTY INVENTORY

Creating an inventory involves keeping a detailed list of all your valuables, with photographs.

Keep records of identifiers such as:

- Manufacturer/ model name / number
- Serial number
- Colour or brief description

Marking your valuables with your name and/or driver's license number is also a great deterrent to thieves and allows a good identifier for Police if the items are recovered. It is not always feasible to engrave an item. For items that cannot be engraved, try looking into alternative security measures.

Marking your valuables with an ultra-violet pen or microscopic identifying dots can be beneficial. These procedures will not damage the item and are only visible using an ultra-violet light.

EXAMPLE: HOW TO FILL OUT THE PROPERTY INVENTORY

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | MAKE / MODEL | SERIAL NUMBER | VALUE |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Television | 65inch, 4K, black trim, scratch on bottom left of screen. license# engraved next to rear ports | Brand Name XF33A | SY456123987 | \$3200 |
| Mobile Phone | Black with some signs of wear on the screen. Case is clear with a Penguin motif on the back | Brand Name SportsGo | SG789321654 | \$1800 (on plan) |
| Engagement Ring | 2.1ct, Emerald cut, yellow diamond. Ring is 4ct rounded gold. Size 6 | Business Name where purchased Docket/Receipt Number & Date | GIA Certificate #321987654 | \$17,000 |

PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

| PROPERTY INVENTORY | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | MAKE / MODEL | SERIAL NUMBER | VALUE |
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PROPERTY INVENTORY

Items you should catalogue and photograph;

- Televisions, audio/visual equipment and automated home assistants
- Computers and mobile devices
- Gaming consoles & equipment
- Cameras and camera equipment
- Musical instruments
- Gardening equipment and power tools
- Bicycles
- Jewellery & watches
- Antiques
- Artwork
- Collections; coins, stamps etc.

For smart phone and other mobile devices, install a security app that allows you to track your device via GPS. Ensure your device automatically locks when you're not using it and have a pin code, finger print or voice command to unlock it.

People often store their valuables and safes in bedrooms or walk in wardrobes. Keep them where nobody else would think to look.

SECURE YOUR HOUSE

Break and enters sometimes happen while people are outside doing yard work and they've left their front, back or garage door unlocked or open. Leaving your garage door open, while you're home can tempt opportunistic thieves that are passing by.

Some important security tips for your home;

- Make your house number clearly visible from the street. Having clearly visible street numbers allow emergency services to find your home faster in the event of an emergency.
- Displaying security warning signs around the perimeter of your home and property advising of security measures can deter potential intruders.
- Make sure your fences and gates are sturdy with key locks.
- Ensure that landscaping is free from potential hiding places. Wherever practical, keep trees and shrubs trimmed, improving visibility of your home and reducing a thief's opportunity to break in unseen.
- Security sensor lighting can be installed around the perimeter of your property. This can include over entry ways, along your driveway and the back of the house. This may reduce any possible hiding places for thieves.
- Consider using light timers to turn the security lights on / off when not at home.
- Install wired or wireless CCTV cameras.
- Lock your garage/garden shed when you are away from home. Garages / garden sheds are targets for thieves. They should be fitted with solid doors and deadlocks. Most home alarms can have their monitoring parameters extended to protect your garage too.
- Tools, gardening equipment, ladders, etc. locked away when not in use. Garden tools, equipment and ladders should be locked away when not in use to prevent thieves from using them to gain access to your home.



HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Clearly visible street numbers.
- ☐ Trees and shrubs can't be used as hiding places.
- ☐ Security lights cover main areas around house.
- ☐ Fences are sturdy.
- ☐ Gates have keylocks.
- ☐ Garden sheds have keylocks.
- ☐ Tools, gardening equipment, ladders locked away.
- ☐ External doors have deadlocks.
- ☐ Windows have keylocks.
- ☐ Internal door between garage and house has a deadlock.
- ☐ Keys aren't left in locks.
- ☐ Light timers are set when out at night.
- ☐ Alarm sensors are directed where valuables are stored.
- ☐ Property Inventory is up to date.
- ☐ Property is engraved or marked.
- ☐ Devices and computer systems are backed up.



SECURE YOUR UNIT

Break and enters into units often occurs because the balcony door was unlocked or open. Some criminals can scale the sides of buildings like climbing a ladder, moving from balcony to balcony.

Keeping this in mind it's always important to keep your balcony doors locked, preferably with a key activated floor bolt. They can also access the balcony via other means including; scaling fences, walls, trees, garbage bins or parked vehicles.

Here's a quick unit security checklist;

- ☐ Communal area is locked
- ☐ Lift needs swipe access
- ☐ Front door has a peep hole
- ☐ Front door has a deadlock
- ☐ Front door bell camera/video or CCTV
- ☐ Sliding door has a floor lock
- ☐ Windows have key locks
- ☐ Balcony not easily accessible
- ☐ Balcony has a sensor light
- ☐ Garage doors and storage cages have locks and floor bolts
- ☐ No visible property in your garage, storage cage or vehicle
- ☐ Your allocated parking spaces do not match your unit number
- ☐ Motorcycle parking has an immovable anchorage point

WHAT TO AVOID

- Leaving doors and windows open when you leave the house despite how long you will be absent for.
- Leaving side gates and garden sheds unlocked.
- Hiding keys anywhere outside your home because thieves look in all these places to gain easy access.
- Placing personal details such as your name, address and telephone number on your keys.
- Leaving large amounts of cash inside your home.
- Leaving cars unlocked in the driveway.
- Leaving notes on the door stating that you are away or when you'll return.
- Giving personal information to a caller you do not know.
- Letting callers know that you are home alone or not going to be at home at a particular time.



PLANNING A HOLIDAY



Break and enter into a home can occur at any time. Thieves target empty homes during holiday periods especially if they suspect people have gone away, or even if the house appears empty.

Here are a few security tips for when you leave your home for an extended period;

- Double check that you locked all windows, doors, garden sheds, gates, garages and any other areas of your home that can be secured.
- Ask a friend or neighbour to park in your driveway.
- Ask trusted friends or neighbours to clear your mailbox and check on your home occasionally while you are away; advise them of where you can be contacted.
- Make sure that the lawn does not become overgrown.
- Ensure nothing will be delivered and left unattended.
- Ensure a answering machine message doesn't state that you are away on holidays and be wary of what you post on social media sites.
- Pay essential services bills in advance: electricity, gas, water and/or telephone so that your supply continues while you're away.
- If valuable items are left in the home, ensure that your Property Inventory is up to date.
- Lock the electricity meter box to prevent thieves interfering with your power supply or security lighting (contact your local electricity provider for more information).
- When packing for a holiday, avoid packing your vehicle the night before as it will become an attractive target for a thief.

REPORT THE CRIME

If you become the victim of any crime including a break and enter or stealing offence, contact the Police.

GATHER descriptive information on items/vehicles that were stolen, identification numbers and where you last saw the items.

When speaking to Police be **HELPFUL** answering all questions as accurately as possible and listen to instructions.

There may be **EVIDENCE** present, such as damaged locks, or items that could have fingerprints or DNA. Avoid touching the area as best you can until Police arrive and assess the crime scene.

REPORT THE CRIME
131 444
NSW POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:



Triple Zero (000)

For emergencies or life threatening situations.



Police Assistance Line (131 444)

For non emergencies.



Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)

To provide crime information. It can be in confidence.

Follow us on  facebook.com/nswpoliceforce  twitter.com/nswpolice  youtube.com/thenswpolice or visit www.police.nsw.gov.au



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| NSW Police | |
| Street Address: | |
| City: | |
| Phone: | |
| Web site: | |

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:



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|---|---|--|
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